



This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

- + *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
- + *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
- + *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
- + *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

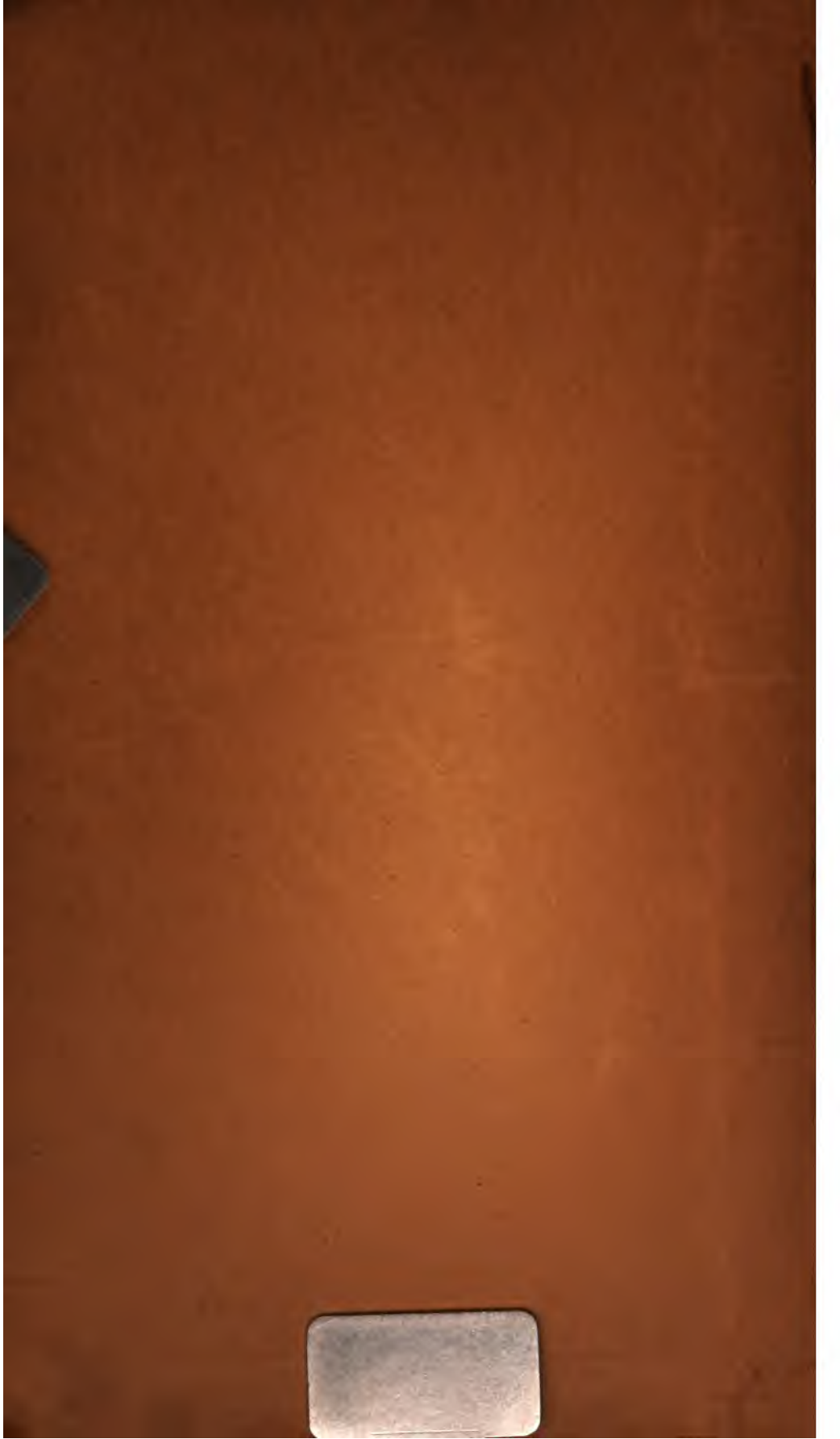
About Google Book Search

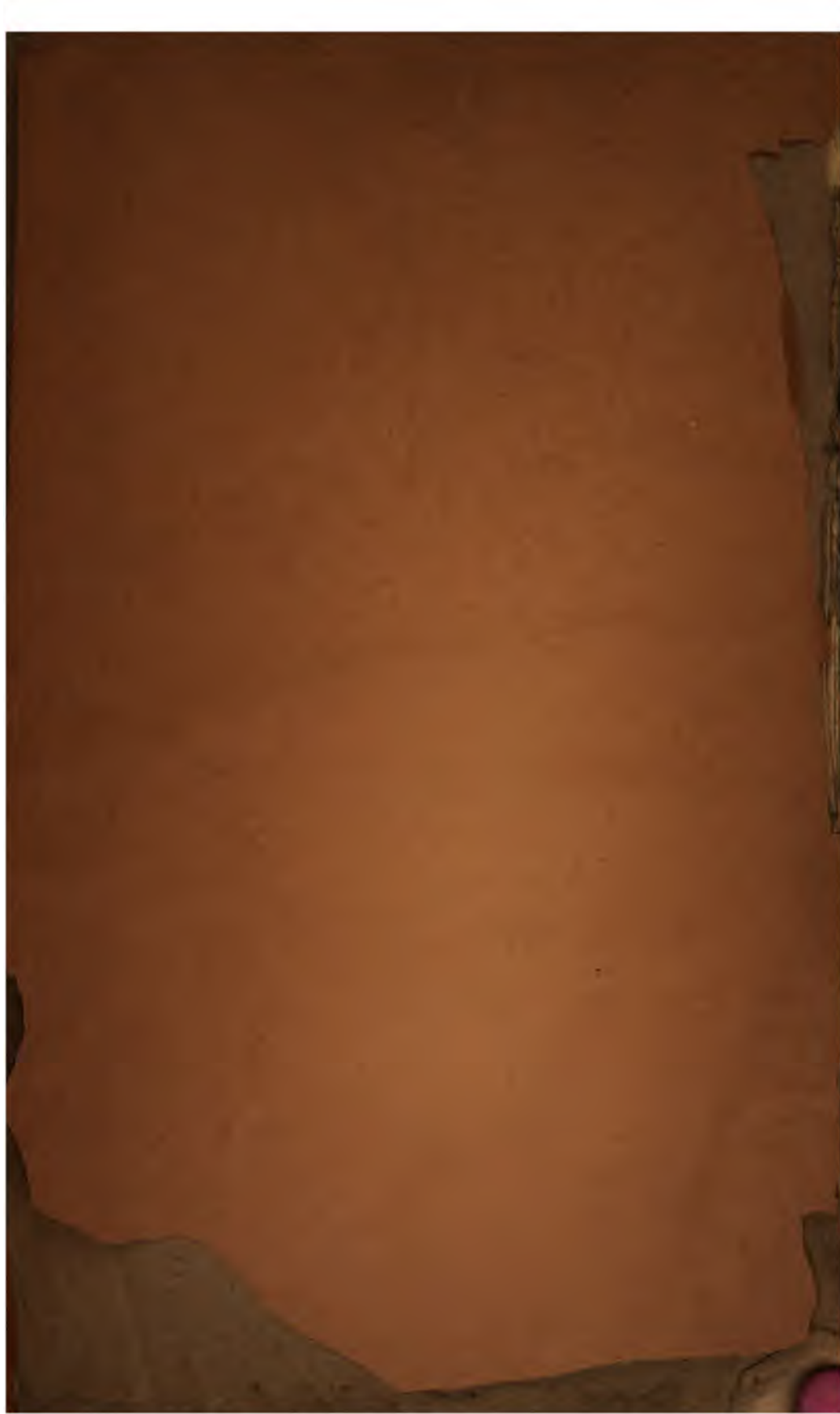
Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at <http://books.google.com/>

NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES



3 3433 07138508 6









IMPROVEMENT OF IRELAND.



LETTER TO THE KING
ON THE
PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENT
OF
IRELAND
BY JOHN BEARE, ESQ

"On a first view to improve paragon course."

Every natural advantage of England has been rendered productive; many of the natural advantages of Ireland still remain in a comparatively unproductive state. Ireland is as yet, far from that point of internal improvement and proportionate national wealth which England has reached. Capitals may be actually employed with much greater profit in Ireland than in England; and consequently with greater effect in augmenting the general wealth of the empire."

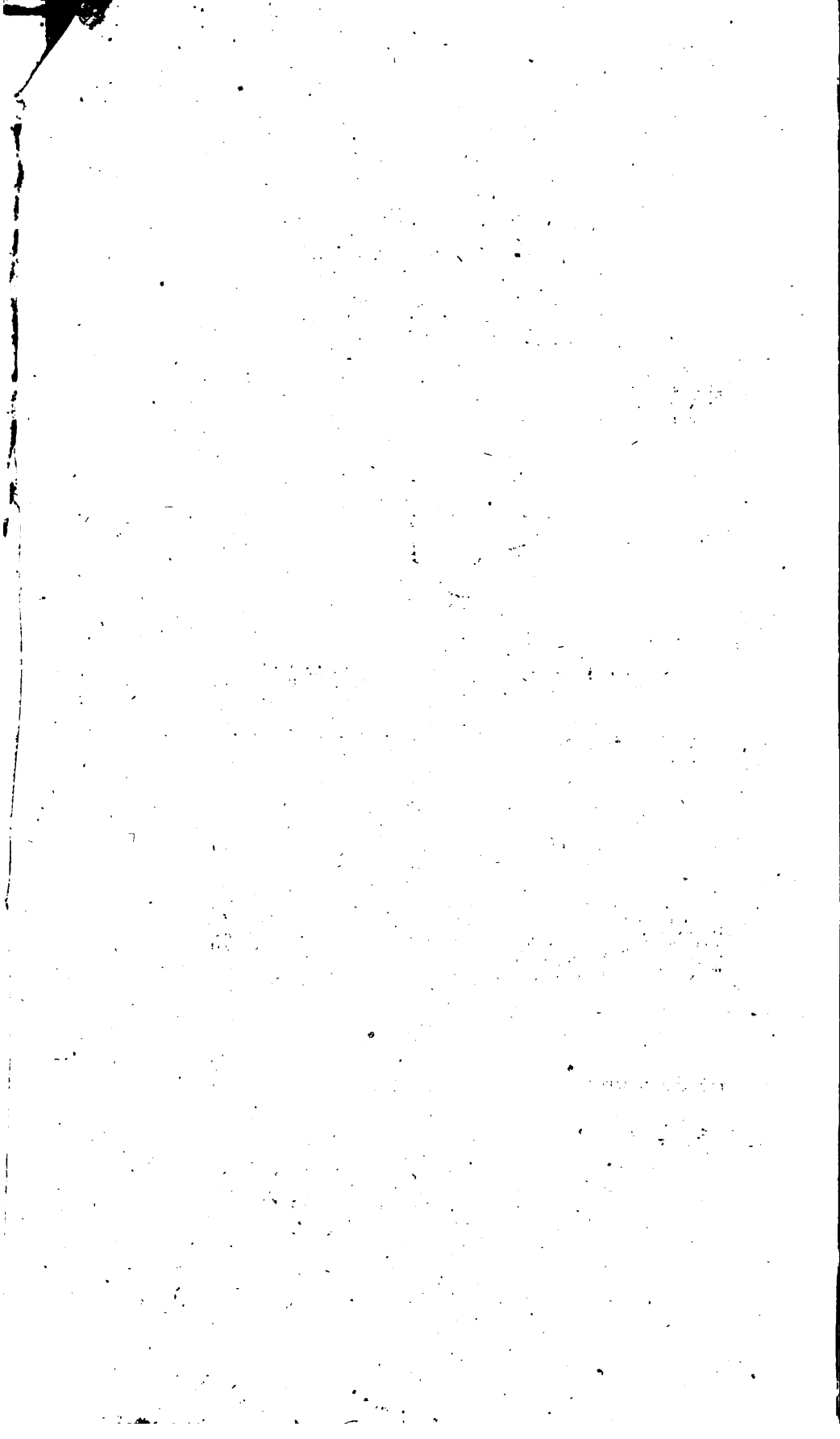
"While what is the public duty of all, continues to be considered as the private business of no one, the public will remain unimproved, and sympathy be of no avail."

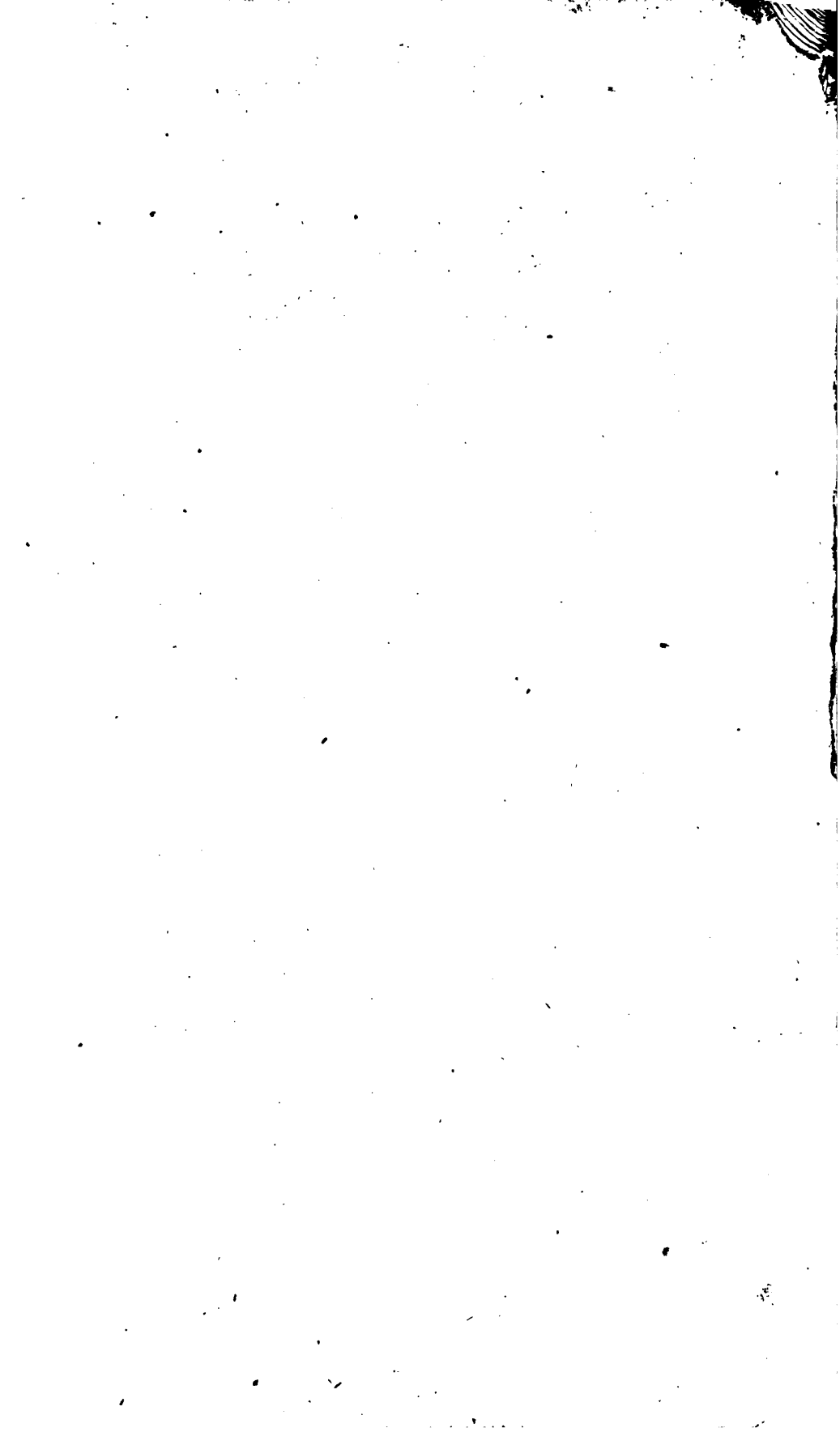
LONDON.

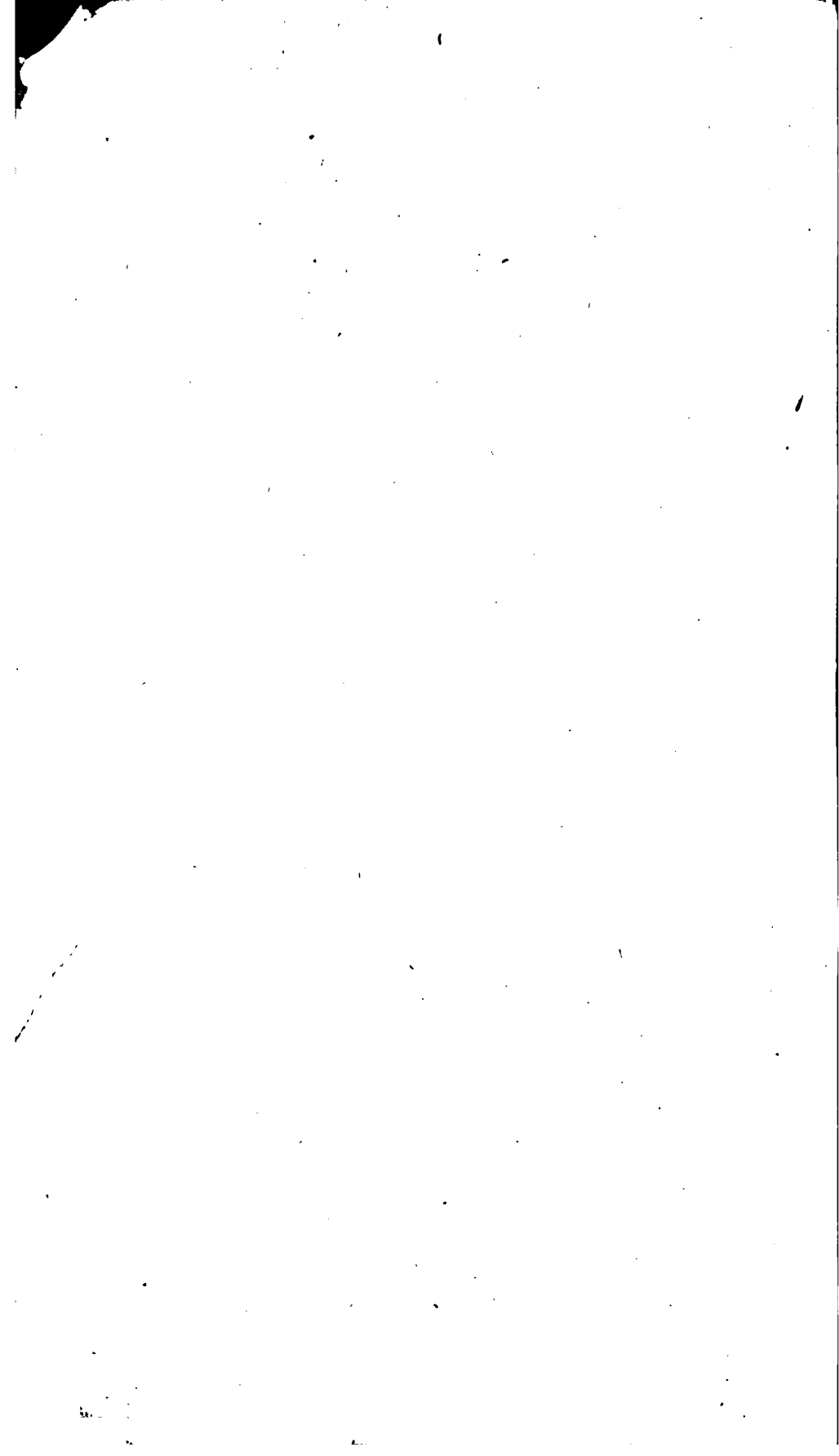
PUBLISHED WITH HIS MAJESTY'S MOST GRACIOUS PERMISSION
BY CLERC SMITH,

BOOKSELLER TO THE ROYAL FAMILY, NO. 36, ST. JAMES'S-STREET;
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL AND MILITARY MAGAZINE,
AND TO BE HAD OF
WOOD AND VATER, DUBLIN; BOLSTER, CORK;
ELIVER AND BOYD, EDINBURGH;
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

1827.









IMPROVEMENT OF IRELAND.



A

LETTER TO THE KING ON THE PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENT OF IRELAND.

BY JOHN BEARE, ESQ.

"Ce n'est que le premier pas qui coûte."

"Every natural advantage of England has been rendered productive: many of the natural advantages of Ireland still remain in a comparatively unproductive state. Ireland is as yet, far from that point of internal improvement and proportionate national wealth which England has reached. Capitals may be actually employed with much greater profit in Ireland than in England; and consequently with greater effect in augmenting the general wealth of the empire."

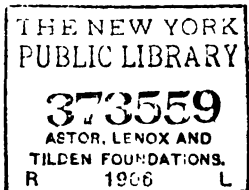
"While what is the public duty of all, continues to be considered as the private business of no one, the public will remain unserved, and sympathy be of no avail."

LONDON:

PUBLISHED WITH HIS MAJESTY'S MOST GRACIOUS PERMISSION
BY CLERC SMITH,
BOOKSELLER TO THE ROYAL FAMILY, NO. 36, ST. JAMES'S-STREET;
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL AND MILITARY MAGAZINE.
AND TO BE HAD OF
WOOD AND YATES, DUBLIN; BOLSTER, CORK;
OLIVER AND BOYD, EDINBURGH;
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

1827.

BING. No. 4812/06



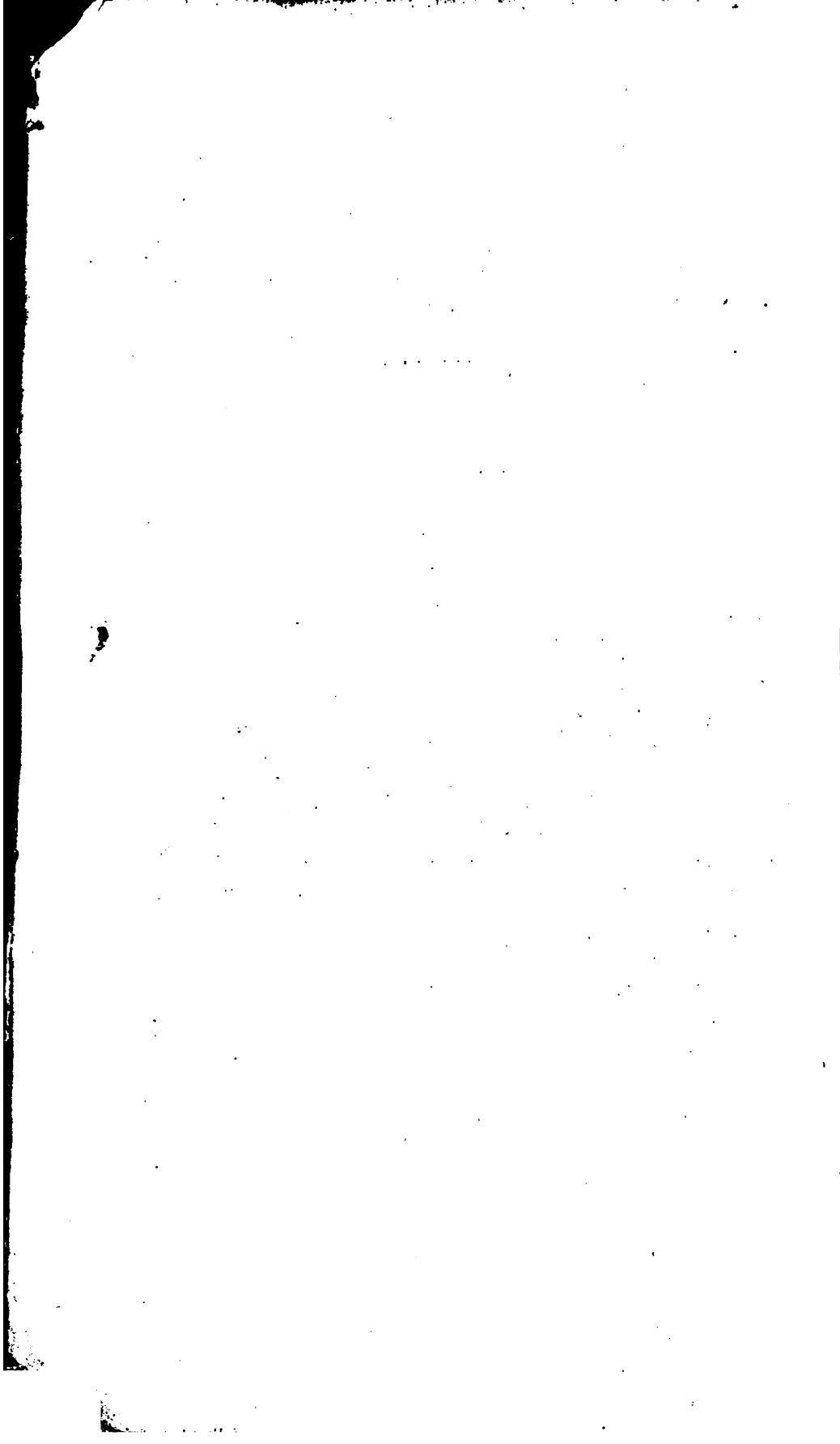
LONDON

PRINTED BY S. AND R. BENTLEY, DORSET STREET.

SUMMARY.

Population of Ireland, its extraordinary increase within the last seventy years—Great riches and fertility of Ireland—Remarks on the discordant theories which have been from time to time entertained by his Majesty's ministers with reference to Ireland—Present strikingly improved capabilities of the country—Singular omission of the legislature—Necessity for supplying sources and means of employment for the poor—Labour, useful, remunerative labour, being supplied to the poor, all the wants of the other orders of society are anticipated—Wretchedness of the peasantry not exceeded by that of the peasantry in the wilds of Russia—Remarks on emigration—Advantages to arise from inculcating habits of industry—Practical views of the Committee of Management for the improvement of Ireland—Claims of Ireland on the peculiar and indulgent consideration of his Majesty—The duty of every true Irish patriot to improve his country—Remarks on the poor laws—Hopes expressed that his Majesty will vouchsafe to become the practical patron of Ireland, and that a bright record of *His Majesty George the Fourth's bounty*, in aid of her suffering peasantry, may be registered in the hearts of all her children to the remotest posterity.

APPENDIX, with interesting and important Papers.



IMPROVEMENT OF IRELAND.

TO THE

KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

SIRE,

EMBOLDENED by that condescension which has ever been evinced by your Majesty to listen to the addresses of all your Majesty's subjects; and induced equally by my inclination and a sense of my duty as an independent Englishman in active life, who has the best interests of his country at heart; I beg most humbly to present to your Majesty's most gracious consideration, a few plain and practical remarks, having for their object to draw attention to the expediency of meliorating the moral and social condition of the distressed and destitute peasantry of Ireland, and the general improvement of that important portion of your Majesty's dominions.

For, whatever topics of transient and immediate interest, may occasionally and for a moment, supersede in the public mind the discussion of subjects peculiarly connected with the condition of your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland, there are no considerations to be placed in permanent competition with them, either as a theme for the dispassionate politician, or as an incentive to the active efforts and the warm aspirations of the patriot and the philanthropist.

The actual state of Ireland presents to a superficial observer, a political problem of no easy solution. With a population rapidly encreasing, but yet not disproportionate to her surface, and still very far from being commensurate with her soil—with a people free from all the vices and defects which are elsewhere supposed to be the causes of beggary and destitution,—or rather, who are distinguished for all the opposite virtues; eminent for their activity, strength, courage, talent, and industry—not indeed possessing abundant capital herself, but amalgamated into political identity, and bound up in political connexion with a country whose capital overflows to the most distant regions, and may be said, without exaggeration, to sustain the commerce of the universe:—it appears a little extraordinary, that under such circumstances, the peasantry of Ireland should, from the almost total absence of sources of employment amongst them, and their conse-

quently forlorn state, be exposed to constant misery, and urged to frequent acts of outrage. In the view, however, of a practical man, not only are the causes of the destitution and distress now so prevalent among the peasantry and labouring classes of your Majesty's subjects in Ireland, palpably obvious, but also in like manner are the means both self-evident and practicable, through which relief can be immediately afforded, and your Majesty's empire at large greatly benefited.

Looking also at the paternal and munificent care with which your Majesty has ever been pleased to regard Ireland—the desire of your Majesty to promote the welfare and happiness of all classes of your Majesty's subjects, and which is now the distinguishing feature of an epoch wherein peace blesses the world, and all Europe is emulously engaged in the advancement of the arts and sciences—viewing also the spirit of improvement in meliorating the condition of humanity—and the anxiety universally felt for perfecting social and just government, by bettering the moral and civil state of the people, and especially that of the effective and labouring classes of society ;——I would, with all humility, endeavour to place under your Majesty's notice, a few observations illustrative of the necessity of more completely turning to account the hitherto untried resources and capabilities of

Ireland ; in the introduction of capital and intelligence, usefully to display the products indigenous to the soil of that country—and thereby to produce habits of contentment and industry amidst all classes, to amend and improve the condition of the peasantry, and more perfectly to assure and maintain the administration of the laws.

Ireland has now a population exceeding seven millions. The statistical accounts of 1754, stated it to have 2,372,634, and the census of 1791 represented the number of inhabitants to be 4,206,612, and that of 1821 amounted to 6,801,827.* So striking an augmentation of the population of that country, about four millions having been added to it within the last seventy years, has not been a consequence of a superior induction of the arts of life ; nor of an enlarged commerce, aided by the applicable genius and industry of the people. The increase in the number of the inhabitants has been going on progressively, in a ratio and under circumstances at variance with all acknowledged theory ; alternately exciting alarm and astonishment, and being seemingly in opposition to first principles : for, in Ireland, misery and destitution have given birth to the children of wretchedness, and the unhappy parents, whose unemployed habits and forlorn state would indicate a check on popu-

Vide Appendix, Population Returns.

lation, have proved in fact the abettors of their own undoing, and been the heedless authors of the miseries of others in the persons of their own offspring.

Where a practical observance of first causes is lost sight of, all theory becomes delusion. In your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland, this appears, in the population having been suffered to outstrip the means of subsistence. The millions of men have there gone on increasing, in the absence of those active appliances, out of which the millions of acres should have been made to contribute a healthful and sufficient supply. Idleness and want now go hand in hand over a great portion of the country. Those resources, which taken advantage of, might place Ireland foremost in the scale of nations as the bulwark of England, and the partner in her prosperity, are left uncultivated, and her population remain, in great part, destitute—Bounties of nature unenjoyed by man, and starving beggary in the midst of all the material of opulence and plenty.

The dominion of your Majesty extends over the people dwelling on the surface of large districts and kingdoms in various parts of the habitable world. A rule so extended and wide does not however admit of laxity amongst the governors, nor are the people who inhabit the most distant regions fostered in idleness or nurtured in ignorance; but, happily, wherever Great Britain's imperial sway is felt, industry is encouraged, and

commerce, civilization, and the arts advance. Such having been for generations past the distinguishing characteristic of the throne on which your Majesty is seated, and shining at this time with still brighter influences under your Majesty's paternal government; of how much the greater moment does it become, that the actual wants and misery—the hardships, privations, and utter destitution of a very considerable portion of the peasantry and labouring classes of Ireland, should be made known at the footstool of your Majesty's throne, in order to pray the application of some efficacious remedies to check the overwhelming ruin now going on in many districts of the sister kingdom.

Sources and means of permanent employment for the destitute peasantry of Ireland, are wanted, and must be supplied. Employment with a view to moral and social improvement—employment to promote mutual welfare—employment for the advancement of civilization, and the introduction of arts, manufactures, and commerce—employment to promote right feelings and amended habits, to give the ability to procure sufficient and substantial food and comfortable clothing, and to substitute the cleanly cottage for the dismal mud cabin, therein for the labourer to feel himself of importance, and be stimulated to gain some position in the scale of society,—is that of which the Irish

peasant stands at present so miserably in need. To supply this employment both individually and numerically to tens, nay, to hundreds of thousands, it is but requisite to develop the resources of the country; the means are all at hand, and it is only necessary practically to bring into play the at present maiden capabilities of Ireland, alike those which nature has so lavishly bestowed, and what has been formed by art through the generous disbursement of the British government.

Ireland is at once your Majesty's most beautiful and very fruitful vineyard; it presents a rich and noble field—there the labourers are in plenty, but, alas! skilful and provident men are not found to set them to work—the harvest is therefore only imperfectly gathered in, and many of the labourers perish. The natural position of Ireland is also highly advantageous. She occupies a territory to which the new world, as well as the whole of Europe, can have ready access; her harbours, bays, and navigable creeks are numerous, and more conveniently situated than are those of any other country in any quarter of the globe. Her soil is every where luxuriant, and her mineral products abundant and diversified; those of certain descriptions inexhaustible. Valuable fisheries offer themselves in all directions on her coasts: and yet the sister kingdom presents at

this moment the striking picture of a populous and powerful state almost wholly destitute of any sources of permanent employment for its population. The products indigenous to the soil have been unsought. What would have given employment to tens of thousands of the destitute peasantry, in different districts, has been neglected, and remains unheeded. Mines of coal present themselves in almost every county; yet morasses that might be drained for the purposes of the most productive agriculture, are devoted to the supply of an insufficient and uncomfortable fuel; and coals, to the amount of hundreds of thousands of tons, are every year imported.* Her shores and harbours invite in vain the employment and access of shipping; for neither manufactures exist to any reasonable extent, to turn her staple commodities to any practicable account, nor commerce to carry her products to the different markets of the world; and while the rest of Europe is marching on in the career of improvement, and the capitalists of England are ransacking the world for new spheres of speculative enterprise, your Majesty's Kingdom of Ireland remains virtually almost as much neglected and as unimproved as it was two centuries ago;—shaming, as it were, by the association of its unassisted poverty and wretchedness, the glory and prosperity of the most flourishing—the most opulent

* Vide Appendix.

—the most civilized and intelligent,—and, in many respects, unquestionably the most munificent and liberal nation of the universe. The revenue of Ireland is almost uniformly deficient; and while lightly taxed in comparison with England, the small burthen allotted to her, is in part, of necessity, collected amidst the wailings, the discontent, and the miseries of the people. Alas, for Ireland!

In the rule of a people, and in the administration of the affairs of government, an observance of those maxims of practical wisdom, out of which experience has shown the greatest benefits, have been from time to time produced to mankind, the candid mind will derive pleasure and satisfaction. Theoretical principles are oft-times at variance with facts, and where the welfare and happiness of a people are at stake, too great caution cannot be exercised. To legislate in theory will, therefore, be found to commit error in practice.* Probably the policy entertained, with reference to your Majesty's Kingdom

* "It generally happens that the affairs of Ireland, which, towards the time of the Union, usually occupied its parliament during one half of the year, are either very frequently discussed in an assembly where few have any knowledge of them, or precipitately decided on, in consequence of a pressure of imperial business, during the short interval of a full attendance of Irish members.

"As for the British representatives, so conscious are they, generally speaking, of their ignorance of Irish affairs, and so little

of Ireland, has been occasionally too theoretical, or actually opposed at times to practical wisdom: that of the late Lord Londonderry was exemplified or displayed in favour of converting Ireland into a granary and store-house for England. Other ministers have advocated the expediency of keeping Ireland as a Colony wholly dependent on England—to be her vassal, and supply, in men and provisions, those means of warfare of which England might stand in need. And there have appeared talented ministers in your Majesty's government, in whose view the very existence of Ireland was a bane—who fancied, or seemed to fancy, that were Ireland ingulphed in the ocean, it would be a boon to ensure the after security and prosperity of England. A little practical observation suffices to show the illusion of such theories; for,

First. No country, existing purely as an

solicitous about them, in consequence chiefly of that ignorance, that they seem to think it peculiarly irksome to attend their discussion; and, accordingly, these affairs, except such as are of a prominent party nature, are generally debated in the thinnest houses; or, indeed, we may say, left to the decision of a small Committee of the House of Commons; perhaps not entirely free from the old propensity to jobbing.

“This inattention, and this neglect on the part of the Irish representatives, have already occasioned much murmuring in Ireland; and will probably be hereafter the subject of loud complaints.”—*Newenham's View of Ireland.*

agricultural country, can become either rich or powerful. The arts and contrivances of life follow so closely on the means of subsistence, that immediately on the one being supplied, the other demands attention. The peasant, the farmer, and the shepherd, are but points in the scale of being; the machinery of life gives to man in a state of civilization, commerce, science, and the arts; and in the development of these, aided by a due attention to agriculture, he may become both wealthy and powerful. *Ex. Gra.* Poland, and other states on the Baltic Sea, have been for ages the granary for the supply of wheat and other grain to the south of Europe. Countless millions of quarters of grain have been shipped thence to the ports of the south. Still those states are poor and feeble, and the peasantry exist in bondage. The district of Barbary has also, from time immemorial, furnished corn to the Neapolitan and Italian states. Nevertheless, the inhabitants of that part of Africa are poor and in barbarism. Commerce, manufactures, and the arts, must be superadded to agriculture and tillage in every country, or the people will be poor, and the government contemptibly weak.

Secondly. To attempt to hold Ireland dependent on England—to be her vassal, were virtually to sacrifice the greatness as well as the existence of the one country, in order to accomplish the ruin of the other. The effective sup-

ply of means from Ireland to England can alone be realized, when the one country shall shine resplendent in equality of attainments commensurately with the other. No armed force would now be able to hold the sister kingdom in a dependent state. Science has introduced a new era. The application of steam to navigation has identified the two countries, as it were, by a perpetual drawbridge; and the passage across the Irish Sea, is now in its degree only like that of the Thames betwixt the counties of Middlesex and Surrey. The two kingdoms are becoming daily, nay hourly, more closely amalgamated: we are become, in truth, one nation, and should become one people, with one reciprocal feeling, and one common enjoyment of reciprocal assistance and co-operation. England has but one-half of the advantages of her civilization and her prosperity, till Ireland is equally advanced and civilized. The blessings of prosperity to any part of a nation are only complete in proportion as they are reciprocally communicated to all; and it follows, that the delusion of a false theory for keeping Ireland in a dependent state is happily dissipated by the advance of science, as well as through the enlightened spirit of the age.

Thirdly. Were Ireland entombed in the depths of the sea, the loss would be to England; and no recompense could be made to her.

Proudly as 'England now stands, her consequence would then be blotted out, and her strength diminished. Her numerical insignificance would then become apparent; for although as yet deriving no financial relief from Ireland towards the burthen of the state,* still, as a component part of herself, Ireland ranks with her in the scale of nations—an integral part, a younger sister, destined hereafter in the eyes of Europe to become more powerful and more wealthy, bringing a rich and resplendent dowry, and to farther aggrandize England by becoming equal with her. Ireland is indeed the brightest gem in the British crown.

While, Sire, the government of your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland has thus from time to time been either only theoretically considered, or injudiciously administered, great public mischiefs have been induced. The act of Union of the two kingdoms, and the dissolving of the Irish parliaments, led also to the non-residence of many of the nobility, and some important public characters, and was a source of temporary evil. This was not considered at the time; but a country will mourn for a long period the loss of enterprising and public-spirited men; for they are the leaven to enkindle industry and

* In the year 1817, the revenue of Ireland amounted to 9,109,171*l*. The expenditure amounted to 14,612,560*l*.

promote happiness among a people. Since the period of the Union, the munificence of your Majesty's government has been largely distinguished in parliamentary grants in aid of certain public works in Ireland: these display themselves in the improvement of harbours, the erecting fortifications, forming canals, docks, basins, building bridges, and making roads. These are designed as works of indispensable public utility; and in their formation they do to a certain degree give valuable employment to scientific characters, as engineers, and to great numbers of labourers, while they disseminate a portion of practical science throughout the country. But, in the absence of that life-giving spirit of industry which should turn to profitable usefulness these important public works, they are at this hour, in fact, but of little value—they appear as monuments of British munificence, while they bespeak the apathy and want of intelligence of the Irish in neglecting to avail themselves of such valuable mediums of commercial prosperity. The grand and royal canals constructed at an expense exceeding two millions and a half sterling, being on a larger scale than that of any of the canals of England, are made use of principally for the conveyance of a sorry description of fuel dug from the at present almost unprofitable bogs and morasses. This indifferent peat fuel, unwholesome in its application to

domestic uses, and entirely unfit for the purposes of science or manufactures, is nevertheless, with the exception of an occasional bark freighted with provisions and poultry, the only produce now seen to be borne on these splendid works of human skill. Monuments of art, and trophies of British munificence,—the harbours, canals, bridges, and public works of Ireland—these are at the present without ships; there is no profitable commerce opened; internal trade languishes,—the products indigenous to the soil remain unheeded, and public spirit is extinct. May it be the wise, the paternal care of the beneficent Monarch who now governs over the destinies of Ireland, practically to give effect to the purposes of their formation! May shipping abound, the rivers teem with produce, agriculture be improved, those mineral products which form the basis of the wealth and power of a country be successfully wrought, and peace, contentment, and happiness, every where prevail! Let his Majesty George the Fourth, and the *improvement of Ireland*, be the lisping sentiment of babes to the latest posterity!

It may have fallen under the observation of your Majesty, that our parliaments, since 1815, have designed to grant temporary loans under the original Stat. of 57th Geo. 3, and subsequent acts, for the prosecution of public works in Ireland, and in aid of Mines and Mineral properties

in that country ; but unfortunately the *latter part* of the provisions of that statute has proved a dead letter, from the fact that there are yet scarcely any mineral undertakings opened in Ireland, in support of which loans of Exchequer Bills could be granted, and consequently applications for advances on the beginning to work such properties have been refused, as not coming within the provisions of the statute. This singular anomaly in the existing state of practical affairs in Ireland was the subject of remark when I had last the honour of an interview with His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant at the Vice-Regal Lodge.* It bespeaks an untoward practical omission of the legislature at the time, for those undertakings have probably sunk in their birth, which, had they been cherished by a little kindly assistance, would have given useful employment to thousands of the destitute peasantry.

Plans of emigration, to lessen an alleged redundancy in the population of your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland, have likewise, for a long time past, engaged the attention of the British public. A portion of your Majesty's Cabinet having advocated the measure of so disposing of a certain

* No statesman has ever exemplified a more ardent zeal for the introduction of capital and intelligence into Ireland than His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant ; nor could enterprising and practical men desire to have their labours countenanced by a more generous and sincere patron.

number of distressed individuals or families; shipping has been engaged, and an enormously disproportionate expense incurred in transporting a few unfortunate beings to Canada and elsewhere. Wherever a retrospect of the past fails to give lights for the future, the illusions of ill-digested theories are sure to produce the most mischievous consequences. Who, that possesses a practical knowledge of the original uses of society, and of the principles which bind civilized men together, will not acknowledge this fact? An ordinary mind will perceive that where the tree is, *there* it should flourish, and that a forest in a natural state is stronger, and the more to be admired, from its density and the number of trees of which it is composed. So it is with men. A numerous population is a primary blessing to a state. The means and contrivances of life are more easily found and supplied in a populous country. Society seems then to be more full—humanity to be more humanized—the tone, the manner, the ordinary amenity of the social compact is visibly improved; the arts and sciences flourish, and all the comforts and elegances of life abound.*

* “Men, like other animals, will multiply in proportion to their means of subsistence. Accordingly, in fertile countries, where the bounty of nature has not been counteracted by the political restraints or outrages of man, but rather seconded by

A minister holding the reins of government in a populous state, has in such measure an arduous task. On him devolves of right to see that justice is administered, and the laws every where equitably maintained. His duty it is to protect the various orders and characters of men, to guard and uphold the diversified and seemingly opposed classes in society, to support the rich; but especially and above all it is his bounden duty, on an enlarged scale, to look out for and provide, by every disposition in his power, sources and means of employment for the poor.

To this a practical man comes as the first hinge in society. On this hinge a wise minister takes his measures and proceeds to rear a structure for the welfare of all. Labour—useful, remunerative labour, being supplied to the poor, all the wants of the other orders of society are anticipated. Idleness takes root no where when the poor have employment. Employ the poor,

wholesome and prudent institutions and regulations, the most dense populations are uniformly found. As men become crowded together, their natural and fictitious wants are multiplied; human ingenuity is sharpened; the various resources of the country are explored; communications are opened between its distant parts; an extensive market for the varied produce of industry is gradually formed; labour is more subdivided, and in proportion as the surplus produce resulting from such subdivision is increased, so must the general wealth of society."—*Newenham's Statistics*, page 58.

instil a spirit of industry, a sentiment of honest independence, in the mind of the peasant, and he forthwith becomes his country's bulwark and his country's pride! On the other hand, a populous country having an unemployed population, presents a most terrific spectacle. There, occasional famine is seen a consequence of idleness and destitution,—ignorance and fanaticism o'ercloud the mind, and disturb the imagination of the untutored peasant,—distress, and want, and misery, alternately prevail—the laws become known only as they are infringed—rapine, bloodshed, murder, and rebellion, follow. How much of the latter picture applies to the condition of the peasantry in certain districts of your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland is not requisite to be inferred. That there are wants felt by the peasantry of Ireland,—that there is a grade, a scale of misery to which they are sunk, which is not exceeded by the wretchedness of the peasantry in the wilds of Russia, is a fact which I aver *from observation*; and the experience of numberless practical men will go to prove that in no country in the world are there to be found more willing, hardy, and contented labourers, than in Ireland, when labour is supplied to them, nor labourers whose hire can be obtained at a cheaper rate.*

* Vide Appendix. Extracts from the minutes of evidence taken before the Parliamentary Committees appointed to inquire into the state of Ireland.

How futile does it seem, then, to attempt to counteract the miseries of a people whose wretchedness springs out of the want of employment, by plans of emigration, by transporting 3000 to 4000 of their number to distant settlements at a charge of TWENTY-TWO POUNDS, to TWENTY-FOUR POUNDS, a-head! How idle to seek to diminish the population of a country having more than seven millions of inhabitants, and alleged to be redundant, by wasting nearly 100,000*l.* of the public money in transporting only about four thousand distressed individuals from among the seven millions, to a distant settlement, and withal to amuse the British public thereupon! There have been visions enkindled to take the public eye. There have been phantoms to amuse the public mind, and the like may appear in endeavours to mitigate the distress in Ireland by plans of emigration. But, practically, such modes of relief in aid of suffering Ireland, are but dire instances of visionary folly, grounded in measures of the most thrifful extravagance.

Your Majesty's ministers have had, from time to time, innumerable plans submitted to their consideration, purporting to be modes of relief for Ireland, but unfortunately, the measures devised have only in very rare instances partaken of either a practical or an applicable character towards the introduction of sources of permanent and useful employment amongst the people. A

writer in a Dublin journal of February 1826, has expressed himself with some pertinency on the subject, and I venture to give a portion of his remarks.*

* "Ireland," says he, "has the faculty of production and reproduction inexhaustible, while unfortunately we have no effective management by which to give display to those bounties which nature has so lavishly bestowed upon us; and the happy consequences which were anticipated from the Union have not yet followed.

"Why is this? Not from any indisposition to benefit or amend our actual state, but from those who are best competent to judge of our condition being removed from us, and not having the opportunity of seeing the actual state of our home affairs.

"The main springs of prosperity to a country will be found in a knowledge of her resources, and a just perception of the proper means to turn them to account; and the actual resources of Ireland are, at this moment, less understood, than those of the two Americas: probably because our proximity to England does not allow the colour of enterprise to appear upon any thing that may be undertaken in our behalf. Large capitalists have, from time to time, coalesced to make great adventures to both North and South America. Loans for millions of money have been greedily supplied, in aid of the comparatively nominal governments of both these countries.—Resident mercantile houses have been established there, and magazines of manufactures—ship-loads of goods of every description transmitted. Wealthy establishments have been built up, and no pains spared to make such bold or rash speculations profitable. Would to God a similar spirit of enterprise could once be set afloat amongst the effective capitalists of England in aid of our country!! Legislation upon our state and condition would then be unnecessary. The art of which we have occasion consists in the faculty of turning to account what we possess; and, were we once put in a condi-

It is the state of your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland, with respect to employment, which is the genuine cause of the general pauperism of the Irish population.

tion to manufacture, our ability to produce at a cheap rate, would enable us to undersell in all the markets of the world. The truth of this would be soon apparent, were practical parties deputed by intelligent monied men in England, to be sent here; for we have better means for the employment of capital than they have any conception of. Our agricultural plans are in general defective. We have very few permanent sources of occupation for our peasantry beyond actual tillage, and in whole districts we have no manufacturing Establishments. Although we possess Coal Mines, they are unwrought. We have Iron Mines inexhaustible, but we produce no iron. We have Mines of Lead, Tin, and Copper, perhaps richer than are to be found in any other country, and still, so strange a fatality attends us, we have never yet had intelligent capitalists directing their attention to them. To a superficial observer, this state of the case must appear quite paradoxical. It is, however, no more strange than true. Our country, which ought to be, and might be the brightest gem in the British crown, is practically unknown, while every other part of the world is ransacked with the most indefatigable research. I venture, however, to state, that this cannot long continue to be the case. Ireland must either form a more intimate connexion with England, or the intelligence which now pervades the rest of Europe will suffice to embroil the two countries. A parallel to the distress which existed a few years ago, must in the nature of things recur again very soon. Our want of permanent sources of occupation for our peasantry constantly exposes us to this; and he who shall witness, as I did, in 1822, the horrors of famine, starvation and wretchedness, will have probably just occasion to recriminate, seeing that large sums of money were then almost uselessly dissipated—the means by which the mouths of the poor and wretched sufferers were then

Practical men are well aware that the introduction of manufactures, trade, and commerce,

stopped being lavished without judgment, and bestowed without any care.—Is there no voice to proclaim the necessity of public establishments in our country? Can no one be found sufficiently bold and intelligent to explain what are our actual wants? From the apathy with which our condition is viewed, one would imagine that this is really the case; but I feel that it ought not to be; and, as a practical man, I would most earnestly recommend, that some means be taken to point out to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant some plans in order to lay the foundation of large undertakings, as collieries, iron works, marble works, the more general introduction of the cotton and woollen manufactures, with any other staple objects, by which useful labour and permanent occupation may be given. I feel quite persuaded that the means for doing so would be, at the same time, obtained without difficulty, were a proper method taken to induce the investment of the capital that would be required. For instance, were a subscription fund to be opened on the principle of a national improvement fund, and to have the countenance of his Excellency, with that of our resident nobility, and other true Irish patriots, I feel quite confident such a plan would be approved, and if persevered in, could not fail to receive the sanction and patronage of our most gracious King. His Majesty would delight in an opportunity of testifying his personal regard; his Majesty's ministers would do the same: and be assured, that were a feeling once raised in the mind of the British public, commiserating the situation of our country, and determining to succour it, there would be no want of money, nor of ability or intelligence, equal to its proper application. Such a fund once raised to the amount of only £300,000, or £400,000, would produce incalculable advantages. It would clothe the needy, it would instruct the ignorant, it would reclaim the dissolute, amend the idle and depraved, make happy fathers and

alone can lay the foundation of the prosperity, and advance the civilization of a kingdom. It follows, that while Ireland is allowed to be destitute of those establishments which furnish useful and profitable employment, her condition cannot fail to be that of misery and wretchedness; or, that misery and wretchedness should fail to produce the disorders that are nursed by ignorance and desperation.

But means and sources like those required, and which are so universally national, cannot be left to the exertion of patriotism alone, how ardently soever it may glow in a few particular bosoms. Individual interests must be blended with those of the public; properties must be invested; capital must be advanced; time, talent, and laborious superintendence must be employed,—and these expect their profit and their remuneration, and cannot without such motives be commanded or procured. These observations arise in my mind on looking at the important subject of the improvement of your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland on a grand scale. Their value will however be more apparent, and the effects to be produced from such views more obvious, when considered in detail. The ends of patriotism and benevolence, and produce children to the state, contented, free, and industrious, worthy of her best institutions, and anxious to uphold them."

Carrick on Shannon, April 19th, 1826.

lence, are not only involved in the welfare of Ireland, but it is in fact the best and only means by which her prosperity and advancement can be effectually accomplished. Neither can a project so comprehensive be expected to be undertaken by any single proprietor or capitalist, or even by two or three individuals. It would seem to be of sufficient magnitude, in its views and probable effects, to be most worthy of the especial attention of Government itself: but, fortunately for your Majesty's empire, the genius of the people and the spirit of our constitution do not permit that trading, manufacturing, and commercial undertakings and concerns, of the description and nature required, should be vested in the constituted authorities. The countenance and approbation, the protection and the encouragement of the Government, are all that on such occasions your Majesty's people are entitled to look for; and of these they may be assured. The rest must be left to be achieved by that combination of individual effort, by which so many glorious objects of national advantage and prosperity have already been accomplished. In pursuance then of these principles, it is, that upon the two-fold grounds of advantage to all, and benevolent patriotism, an extensive co-operation for the improvement of Ireland, by the employment of her peasantry and hitherto unprovided population, should be invited, in such works, establishments, and oc-

cupations as her means of production and other facilities and natural advantages seem most especially to indicate and require.

No people can be found amongst whom the nobler principles of action are more inherent; and to no people are distress and misery more familiar. No population can be instanced that are more endowed with native shrewdness and vivacity; and yet, in this portion at least of the globe, there is no other population that has benefited so little by the spread of science and intelligence emanating from the active intellect of the age. The civilization of Ireland does not advance with that of the rest of Europe, because of the inefficacy, or total absence of such appliances as alone can tend to tranquillize, to improve, or to enrich a country. And yet Ireland, if her resources could be called into activity, is a mine of wealth,—where enterprise might be active with the fairest prospect of success,—where manufactures of the first importance might readily be established, because the material there exists,—where capital might consequently be employed with the most decisive advantage to the capitalists, as well as with the greatest benefit to the country. And, if increasing population were indeed an evil, the example of your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland is at least sufficient to show, that privation of the comforts, and even of the ordinary necessities of subsistence, (the

inevitable consequence of the want of means of employment,) is no sufficient preventative or check of such increase. Famine may occasionally thin that population, in some degree; but idleness and beggary do not restrain it. It would seem as if sloth and vagrancy were quite as favourable to the multiplication of the species, as the comforts of abundance; and that wisdom would be more benevolently exerted in providing employment for inevitably increasing numbers, than in endeavouring to restrain what the impulse of nature is perpetually struggling to advance and multiply.

But there exists, in fact, no redundancy in the population of your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland; since that country abounds, if properly appealed to, with means and sources of productive employment for more than all the population it contains: the shores, the surface, and the substrata of her soil being pregnant, as has been shown, with the means of subsistence, comfort, and prosperity, if attention were properly directed, and capital judiciously employed for bringing them into active operation; and it can with truth be said, that if even the sums that have been spent in promoting plans of emigration had been more correctly expended in advancing the agriculture, promoting the fisheries, and working the neglected mines, they might have provided, at home, for fifty, or five hundred

her industry, as well as the bulwark of her strength; and the two united nations may, under the paternal government of your Majesty, at length enjoy, in reciprocal security, the full and manifold advantages of that union by which alone the welfare and *real independence* of either can be effectually secured.*

* "The arts, trade, and commerce, have reached a pitch in England, and are so universally diffused, that they can with difficulty advance, and will in no case greatly surpass their present degree of perfection. But Ireland presents a new, and in many cases almost a maiden soil for our enterprise and cultivation, and will yield a harvest in proportion. We speak in part metaphorically: it is not the harvest of grain only which we shall reap, but the harvest of commercial greatness and national power."—*Times*, May, 1826.

"Every natural advantage of England has been rendered productive: many of the natural advantages of Ireland still remain in a comparatively unproductive state. Ireland is, as yet, far from that point of internal improvement and proportionate national wealth which England has reached. Capitals may be actually employed with much greater profit in Ireland than in England; and consequently with greater effect in augmenting the general wealth of the empire."

Newenham's Statistical Views.

"On Monday, a large concourse of persons assembled at Grant's Bog, Cork, and paraded the streets of that city in a vast mass, with large placards, on which were inscribed, "*We want employment; ourselves and our families are starving.*" They drew up an address to the Mayor on their distressed condition, and were met by Mr. Sheriff Spearing, while proceeding to present it. This gentleman, while in the act of gently remonstrating with the leaders, was struck by some fellow in the crowd, cut in the face, and obliged to fly for protection. Things

To be practical, is probably to become every thing towards ensuring the welfare of your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland. Deeds, not words, are wanted there. That there has been a sort of *modus* in legislating for that country, our Statute Books will abundantly testify; the framing of laws has, *in the view of many*, been a *sovereign panacea for all ills*, and yet unfortunately for such legislating theorists, the experience of all men, in all ages, has shewn that laws are only just or necessary when they promote and maintain the welfare of that society, for whose benefit they were enacted.

Practical lights have been of late, and happily now are entertained in favour of your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland. The dawn of real improvement has appeared. A desire is beginning to be felt, to meliorate the condition of the distressed peasantry. Joined also with a wish to reap advantage from the maiden capabilities of the country, a spirit of enlarged and genuine patriotism has displayed itself amongst some of the principal nobility and landholders. In the foreground of these true patriots, your Majesty's subjects have gladly seen the generous-hearted Marquis

began to wear a very alarming aspect, the peace officers brought up the military, and the Third Dragoon Guards cleared the streets of this riotous assembly, without any farther violence. The Mayor has since consented to receive a deputation from the unemployed operatives."—*Morning Post*, May, 1826.

Conyngham—the Marquises Downshire and Londonderry; the Earls of Bessborough, Belmore, Carrick, Kingston, and Fitzwilliam; the Lords Middleton and Dufferin, and Edmund M'Donnell, Esq., taking, with other noblemen and gentlemen, a distinguished part. In the summer of the past year a public meeting was held in London “for the purpose of taking into consideration certain plans, to provide *permanent sources of occupation for the destitute peasantry of Ireland, and for the advancement of their moral and social condition.*”

At this meeting a committee of management was formed, and the following resolutions were passed.

I. That such improvement of Ireland, both by bringing into active operation the natural resources of that country, and by civilizing the habits of the unemployed peasantry, and poorer classes, through the means of useful and profitable labour, is an object of primary importance, as connected with the interests of the whole United Kingdom, and the prosperity of the British Empire in general.

II. That in order to effect such improvement, and supply the means of giving permanent occupation to the distressed and unemployed Irish poor, it is important to form establishments which will bring into a productive state the long

neglected resources of that country; and to give thereby additional impulse to its deficient manufactures and commerce.

III. That the properties, so liberally thrown open, in the different counties specified in the memorial which has been read, are in every way suitable for the purposes and objects in view, as furnishing immediate sources of regular and permanent employment for great numbers of the destitute peasantry, and for commencing thereby the melioration of their condition, and, ultimately, conducing to the improvement of the whole Island.

IV. That, as for the accomplishment of an object so praiseworthy in its design, and of such truly national importance, individual means, especially in the present state of property in Ireland, are totally inadequate, it is expedient that Subscriptions be entered into, to constitute a Fund for such purposes, under the denomination of the Improvement of Ireland Fund, and that the amount of no individual subscription exceed 100/.

V. That the Committee of Management be requested to lay before his most gracious Majesty the plan of this Fund, for the improvement of the condition of that distressed portion of his Majesty's subjects, the hitherto unemployed and destitute Peasantry of Ireland, and to solicit his Majesty's gracious patronage and encouragement of the same.

A correspondence with public spirited individuals, as well as with the municipal authorities in Dublin, Waterford, Cork, Limerick, and Belfast, was then entered into. A digest was also promulgated, being

*“ Practical Views of the Committee of
Management.*

“ 1st. To raise a Fund by Subscriptions and Patriotic Benevolences for the purpose of creating sources of permanent occupation for the destitute Peasantry: such Fund to be under the denomination of the Improvement of Ireland Fund.

“ 2d. To employ the Peasantry in the different counties, by bringing forward the resources of the country,—clearing the morasses—working the marble and lime quarries, coal, lead, and copper mines—establishing iron works—developing the properties already so liberally thrown open, on which 20,000 hands are to be immediately employed; and in introducing and cherishing such manufactures as the Fund will admit.

“ 3d. To invite respectable artisans, mechanics, and experienced practical men, having small capitals of their own, to establish themselves in different districts throughout Ireland, by granting them loans, and pointing out benefits to be

derived ; therein strengthening the middle and effective class of society, and introducing intelligence and industry.

" 4th. A Subscriber to this Fund to the amount of 100*l.* desiring to have any mineral or other property supposed to exist on his estate, investigated, shall have the same examined and reported on, gratis.

" 5th. A Subscriber of 50*l.* to pay 10*l.* for such examination and report ; and a Subscriber under 50*l.* to pay 20*l.*

" 6th. The Committee of Management purpose to advance money on approved security, at the rate of 5*l.* per cent. per annum, to enable the proprietors of properties, suitable for supplying permanent employment to the peasantry, to prosecute their undertakings, and bring to light the resources of the country ; by which means the Fund will be increasing, and the country at large benefited.

" The Committee of Management think it but just to declare their determination to appropriate ever shilling of the Fund to the improvement of Ireland, by bringing forward its resources, encouraging industry, and employing the population."*

* On the publication of the " Practical Views of the Committee of Management," the Editor of the Morning Post, in the leading article, observed,

" To our judgment, this is going to the root of the evil, as

But your Majesty having about that period directed the summoning of the present parlia-

applying to that long neglected country, Ireland; and it must occasion wonder and surprise in the mind of every one, that views so decidedly feasible for meliorating the wretched condition of her destitute Peasantry, and at the same time of progressively enriching that country, should not have been entertained and prosecuted long ago. In such an outline, the absentees will have grave matter for reflection. Views so luminous, and objects in themselves of such vital importance to the country, whether considered in a moral or a political point of view, must beget attentive consideration in the mind of every reflecting individual. No one can deny that the Improvement of Ireland is the most important subject that can now be entertained. It comes more closely to the heart of every individual in the United Empire, than any other question can possibly do; for unless means are taken, and such prompt and efficacious measures carried into effect, as are now set forth, the wretchedly distressed and destitute peasantry of the Sister Kingdom, whose numbers and miseries are daily augmenting, must overwhelm those laws, and destroy those social ordinances, with which this country is so eminently blessed. It is not our custom to speak hastily on important measures, emanating under whatever sanction; nor do we ordinarily give vent to our feelings with a purpose to excite those of our readers, unless there be the most palpable and self-existing necessity for so doing. Such is, however, most indisputably the fact with reference to the actual condition of the Sister Kingdom. Looking there, a case at once presents itself indicating the necessity both of speaking loudly and acting promptly, for we have in her deplorable condition the strongest and most self-evident causes of national abasement. United to us, as she is, by ties of the closest affinity, being bound by the same laws, and under the same beneficent monarch, her real state is misery, the very acmé of misery,

ment, the distractions hitherto incidental on the elections of members of Parliament in Ireland, have served, in a great degree, to keep the measures of the Committee in abeyance.

Ireland has at this moment the strongest claims on your Majesty's peculiar and indulgent consideration. Much has been done for her—the largest sums have been expended, and the kindest efforts made on the part of her kindred people. It now remains for your Majesty graciously to aid and forward her in the race of improvement. All men desire to see her fairly on her course—there are millions who say God speed her—there are millions more who will rejoice in and be benefited by her advancement. The cause of Ireland is indisputably that of your

for perhaps millions of her population—the hourly cry is “we want employment, ourselves and our little ones, give us work; we starve.” In such a state of things, and under circumstances at once so striking and so appalling, does it not come home to the bosom of every reflecting member of society, as a primary duty—a paramount, patriotic obligation, due to himself and to all those who are in any way dear to him—forthwith to step forward in the cause of Ireland; to succour her peasantry—relieve her destitute, wandering, half-fed population—and, by supplying the means and sources of permanent occupation, remove the misery now existing, and contribute to the welfare and prosperity of the empire at large? Under such a recommendation, the Committee of Management for the Improvement of Ireland may now appear, from the value and justness of their practical views.” —*London Morning Post*, June 5, 1826.

Majesty. Let there be light was the fiat of the Omnipotent Creator of the universe, and the world shone in beauty and grandeur. Let your Majesty decide that improvement shall go forth in Ireland, and the blessings of contentment, peace, and harmony, will speedily appear in the prosperity of her people. Let your Majesty graciously vouchsafe to countenance the plans and views entertained by the Marquis Wellesley, whose unceasing exertions and universally acknowledged urbanity endear His Excellency to all classes; and the great work of improvement must flourish under such splendid auspices. The world's at peace. But Europe, England, Ireland, that mighty and distant and extended empire over which your Majesty rules, is now looking up to your Majesty, and with the most ardent and tearful longings, on account of Ireland. Your Majesty lives more perfectly in the hearts of the people than any monarch in the records of England's history ever did, and yet not a heart beats but the prayer of its mind is for Ireland; neglected, forgotten, suffering, ill-understood Ireland. Be it then, gracious monarch, the disposition of thy mind to direct the councils of Ministers and of Parliament in an especial manner to the affairs of Ireland. Let the cry of the suffering and forlorn peasant—the houseless wife's lament—and the destitution and distress of those who say, “*We want employment, give us work, we starve, we and our little ones,*” approach thy throne.

The work of improvement is easy. The measures to be taken are plain and obvious. Labour; useful, profitable, remunerative labour for the peasantry and working classes is required, and must be supplied. Practical men can point out correct and abundant sources of supply for profitable employment in an infinite variety of ways. They will refer to sources and means, and will waste little time in words on such a subject.*

One of the members for Dublin has expressed, in the House of Commons, an apprehension that your Majesty had forgotten Ireland, because your Majesty did not allude to it specifically on the

* "The eastern possessions of Great Britain are confessedly valuable in a high degree; so also are her possessions in the western parts of the world. But, considered as sources of imperial strength, they are indisputably upon the whole inferior to Ireland. The supplies drawn from the former, may appear to certain descriptions in the British community, far more desirable than those which are drawn from the latter. But if the view be disinterestedly extended to the whole aggregate of the real means of imperial energy, it will doubtless be acknowledged, that the supplies of the east and those of the west, industriously augmented to the utmost, must ever fall infinitely short of those which Ireland, if wisely and solicitously governed, might become capable of yielding. The prosperity of her eastern settlements, and of her western colonies, may decline; yet Great Britain may thrive. These distant dependencies may even cease to be parts of the British dominions; yet Great Britain and Ireland, firmly united, sagaciously and impartially governed, with all their various sources of wealth and strength fully disclosed, and skillfully improved, may effectually constitute a flourishing and unvanquishable empire."—*Newenham's Statistics*.

opening of parliament. And the member for Limerick has given notice of a motion for the repeal of the duty on the import of coals into Ireland. In the view of practical men, the latter honourable member would have done better, by giving his constituents a practical illustration of the Fable of Hercules and the Waggoner, and recommending to them to dig the coals from under their feet, and prevent the necessity of *any import whatever* of that valuable mineral. The people of Ireland generally require an illustrative example of the value of personal and individual effort. The putting his own shoulder to the wheel for the advancement of his country, is well worthy the attention of every true Irish patriot. But a first example is wanted. The fact of 800,000 tons of coal having been last year imported into Ireland,* while millions of tons are under the surface, and daily trodden over by the countless thousands of the unemployed peasantry of that country, may be cited as a first instance ; while their having the ores of iron, the staple product of the world, in sufficient abundance to meet the consumption of the one half of Europe, and yet manufacturing no iron, but importing tens of thousands of tons of it year-

* The quantity of coals, culm, and cinders imported into Ireland, up to the 10th of October, 1826, was 822,262 tons ; and the quantity imported in the preceding year, to the 10th of October, 1825, was 693,401 tons ; an increase of not less than 128,861 tons. *Vide* Appendix. Coals annually imported into Ireland from 1813 to 1821 inclusive.

ly, may be noticed as another.* On a moderate calculation, were capital judiciously invested to develop these two important sources of useful manual labour, it might in the various subdivisions of labour, to which these valuable minerals give rise, afford employment almost immediately to 300,000 of the at present destitute peasantry.

And when undertakings of such a character are once commenced, every well-wisher to his country will have reason to rejoice, and must desire zealously, however feebly, to contribute; for a practical advancement will then have been made to ensure the prosperity, the peace, and the happiness of Ireland. Ireland will then begin to resemble her fostering and protecting sister, from whom she now so lamentably differs. Constant and regular employment will diffuse among her population the benefits of, and the attachment to steady and habitual industry. In the train of industry will follow tranquillity, contentment, and good order. As her wealth accumulates her arts will flourish. The virtues and the comforts of humble life will shed their cheerful blessings upon her vallies and her hills, and add a lustre to the present magnificence of her costly public buildings and numerous splendid mansions. In national wealth and power, in general happiness and virtue, in the full de-

* *Vide* Appendix. Iron annually imported into Ireland from 1813 to 1821, inclusive. Also import of wrought iron for the same periods.

velopment of her genius and character, she will then become that for which nature has obviously designed her,—the most splendid and valuable gem in your Majesty's imperial crown!*

Public meetings have been held, and petitions to Parliament transmitted, praying the establishment of a system of poor laws in Ireland. Were, however, such views to have the sanction of your Majesty's legislature, the consequences

* "In respect, then, of that paramount article, soil, as well as all the other physical advantages which facilitate the augmentation of national wealth, Ireland may be truly said to hold a most distinguished place among European countries. Were human industry and skill perseveringly directed to the soil of Ireland, it might eventually be rendered by the constant aid of an inexhaustible supply of the very best natural manures of various natures, perhaps little, if at all inferior to that of Italy; and surely Ireland would then, upon the whole, be much more faithfully described in the words of Pliny, appositely quoted by Dr. Beaufort, as a motto to his memoir, than that country which the patriotism of the Roman naturalist prompted him to eulogise: "*Situ ac salubritate cœli atque temperie, accessu cunctarum gentium facili, littoribus portuosius, aquarum copia, montium articulis, ferorum animantium innocentia, pabuli ubertate: quicquid est quo carere vita non debeat, nusquam est præstentius, fruges, vellera, lina, Juvenci.*"—*Nat. Hist.* l. 37.

"That Ireland greatly surpasses her sister-country England, in the aggregate of the endowments of nature, is abundantly obvious. And it may fairly be questioned whether England, actually abounding in wealth beyond any other country in Europe, can boast of any one natural advantage, which the former does not possess in a superior degree."—*View of Ireland*, page 86.

would be destructive to all the inducements to labour now felt amongst the poor of Ireland.

Were poor-houses to be erected, that country's existing distresses would run rapidly into absolute pauperism. Although poor-houses might, to a certain extent, be built, and the charges of their erection in the different thirty-two counties, comprising 3436 parishes, together with the requisite supplies of clothing and furniture, be partially supplied; yet, such first expenditure would create an enormous debt—the charges of annual support would follow, and in a very few years the claims levied for the maintenance of the poor not being duly met, the lands of the kingdom would become the property of the trustees acting for the poor—the nobility and efficient classes would quit the country, and universal pauperism prevail. A poor-house in England for the reception of one thousand individuals, taking an ordinary average, stands thus—

For the purchase of land, and the charges of erecting an adequate building for one thousand individuals, may be rated at total, 45,000*l*.

For charges of annual support, management, wages, provisions, maintenance, and clothing, 22,000*l*. per annum.

To exemplify such a ratio of charge in Ire-

land, allowing for the establishment of only one poor-house in each of the respective counties, would create a first charge of 1,440,000*l.*, and an annual cost of 704,000*l.* To augment such establishments in a threefold ratio, and the poor laws in England are far more expensive, would create a first charge of 4,320,000*l.*, and an annual cost amounting to 2,112,000*l.*

May it please your Majesty graciously to vouchsafe to become the practical benefactor of Ireland. Example is wanted. An interest or fashion to be created in behalf of a suffering people—a hardy, but a forlorn and wretched peasantry—in the succouring of whose miseries the cause of humanity itself is deeply interwoven. Deign, then, gracious Monarch, to become the patron of the poor of Ireland. Money only in a limited way will be required to produce the most complete improvement and regeneration in their state. The means necessary to fructify the soil are not large; but with them intelligence must be imparted to direct the use of the spade, and ensure the application of regular labour. The harvest then is sure. The seed once sown, will yield an hundred fold. Real, and solid, and lasting benefits, will appear to adorn a generous people, and strengthen and build up the state. And were I able to lay before your Majesty, in colours as vivid as the importance of the subject requires, whether in a moral or a political point

of view, the necessity of giving employment to the destitute Irish peasantry—the wretchedness it would relieve—the demoralization it would prevent—the disorders and depredations it would effectually remove—the comfort and happiness it would diffuse—and the great advantages that would result therefrom to the united empire at large, I feel assured your Majesty would give the subject the most prompt and beneficent consideration; and had I the power of adequately sustaining the realities of the picture to the view of your Majesty's subjects of the kingdom of England, whose active charities are known all over the globe, I feel persuaded that the instant feeling of every mind would be, why remain we idle in doubtful deliberation? Let us hasten to act; to commence at once the good work, and by straining every nerve, to give the only effectual relief to the suffering tenantry, and place Ireland in that position in the scale of nations, which God, in his creating Providence, seems to have entitled her to hold. Could such a feeling be directed into active and persevering operation, the lapse of a very few years would suffice to perfect the vigour of such establishments as might render your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland, in all respects, indeed, a justly proud and happy portion of the British empire, bound to it by links more strong than adamant—the links of gratitude and emulous affection, and what is

more indissoluble still, amalgamated with us by similitude of habits, equality of civilization and advantages, and reciprocity of pursuits and occupations.

That there are hearts enough in England beating high with wishes for all this, I do not call in question. But to effect any thing there must be a concentric point, a focus of union and co-operation between them. They must beat in unison to some digested plan, and the throb of the heart must be accompanied by the effort of the hand. While what is the public duty of all, continues to be considered as the private business of no one, the public will remain unserved, and sympathy be of no avail. The glory, however, will be to those, the benediction will to them be due, who, under your Majesty's beneficent countenance, shall first step forward with the promptitude of example to give practical efficacy to what is at present but a theoretical feeling, and render the miseries of seven millions of people, and the dormant means of their happiness, no longer a mere metaphor to point a moral, or adorn a tale ; but a subject for practical exertion, by which their prosperity may be realized, and their misery turned to gladness.

It is now little more than a century since her Majesty Queen Anne, your Majesty's august predecessor, was seated on the throne of these

realms. Her reign was a brilliant one: it was distinguished by great battles and important victories, while the measures of her Majesty's administration were for the most part founded in wisdom, and produced results of acknowledged utility to the people. The reign of Anne was thus marked, and the records of that period illustrate the fact. But happily for the memory of her Majesty, one act was passed by the legislature in that reign, which causes the remembrance of Anne to live daily, nay, hourly, in the hearts and minds of a portion of your Majesty's subjects even at this hour. The inferior orders of the beneficed clergy of that period were in a distressed state. Her Majesty saw and commiserated their situation. A statute was enacted ordaining a more suitable provision for the distressed clergy, and Queen Anne's *Bounty* lives at this time. It lives a medium of support to men of learning, and contributes to the maintenance of the instructors of your Majesty's people. May Ireland hand down, registered in the hearts of all her children, to the remotest posterity, a bright record of his Majesty GEORGE THE FOURTH'S BOUNTY in aid of her suffering peasantry!

In a future Letter, I propose to myself the pleasure of humbly placing under your Majesty's gracious consideration, some brief and succinct plans for the *practical improvement of Ireland*.

These plans will spring out of an aggregate mass of information as well of a general character, as being adapted to local and contingent circumstances; they will prove themselves to be a compilation formed through practical observation; and will be even equally interesting to the gainful views of the capitalist whose presence in Ireland is so much required, as instructive to the theoretical calculations of the political economist. But, especially to the actively intelligent and enterprising middle class of men in England, whose existence is so precious, and of such immense importance to the state; will these plans present the bright and stimulating picture of a new and untried—a maiden and rich country—where extraordinary natural capabilities are added to peculiar and available facilities; where the products of the soil, whether of the surface or of the substrata, are as rich as they are diversified; where a climate like his own; a language familiar to him; laws with which he is acquainted, and under whose protecting banner he has flourished—will all appear joyfully to invite the practical man, desiring his co-operation, the aid of his capital and intelligence; and presenting probably a more sure and noble field for profitable and honourable industry than has ever been held up to the view of the effective class of society in any age or country; or under any circumstances, from the commencement of time.

But perhaps I may here give additional weight to these remarks, which I have already humbly submitted to your Majesty's most gracious consideration, if I now beg to conclude this my first letter, by adding the following strong, pertinent, and judicious summary given by a highly talented, and much older individual than myself, on the deeply important subject of the practical improvement of your Majesty's kingdom of Ireland.

“ With a situation then, so eminently favourable to foreign commerce ; with a coast so free from danger, and every where presenting safer and more capacious harbours and bays than are to be found in any other country of equal extent in the world ; with so many noble rivers flowing through the land in all directions, and amidst the richest parts of it, through as fertile districts as any in Europe, through districts of unrivalled fertility, and terminating in harbours, calculated not only by locality, but by every other requisite, for the prosecution of the most extensive traffic with every other nation under the canopy of heaven : with such vast advantages in respect of artificial navigations ; with such unequalled means of bringing all parts of the country as it were into contact one with another, and affording to each the varied markets of all the rest ; with a climate so far removed from the extremes of heat and cold, as to permit the unhoused labourer to pursue his occupation, without danger or ob-

struction throughout the year, and to insure an almost perpetual verdure to the pastures; with such an abundant supply of those minerals and fossils which are most necessary to the well-being of man, and on which human labour and ingenuity may be exerted with the fullest effect; with such productive fisheries, both off the coasts and in the rivers and lakes; with a soil so luxuriant and inexhaustible in many places, so fertile in most, and so capable, in all others, of being rendered at a trifling expense highly and permanently profitable; with a singular assemblage of all the various requisites for becoming the great emporium of the commercial world, the theatre of industry and arts, the granary of the West of Europe, and the successful rival of all other countries, ancient or modern, in commercial opulence and national strength; how has it happened that Ireland was not long since what the sagacious Sir William Temple affirmed she might become—"one of the richest countries in Europe?" How has it happened that she did not long since make, what he affirmed she was capable of making, "a mighty increase of strength and revenue to the crown of England?" How did it happen that this fair island, so profusely gifted with all the more valuable boons of nature, continued, until near the close of the last century, in a state of comparative obscurity and national poverty? How did it happen that a spirit of industry and a

spirit of commercial enterprize became completely extinguished among the active, quick-sighted, and adventurous people of Ireland?"

Humbly praying that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to view with kind consideration these remarks, which have for their object the melioration of the condition of the peasantry and suffering poor of Ireland; and further, most humbly hoping that your Majesty will graciously vouchsafe to patronize and sanction those plans which may be brought forward for the general welfare of that important portion of your Majesty's dominions, the kingdom of Ireland,

I remain,

With the profoundest veneration,

SIRE,

Your Majesty's most faithful Subject,

and dutiful Servant,

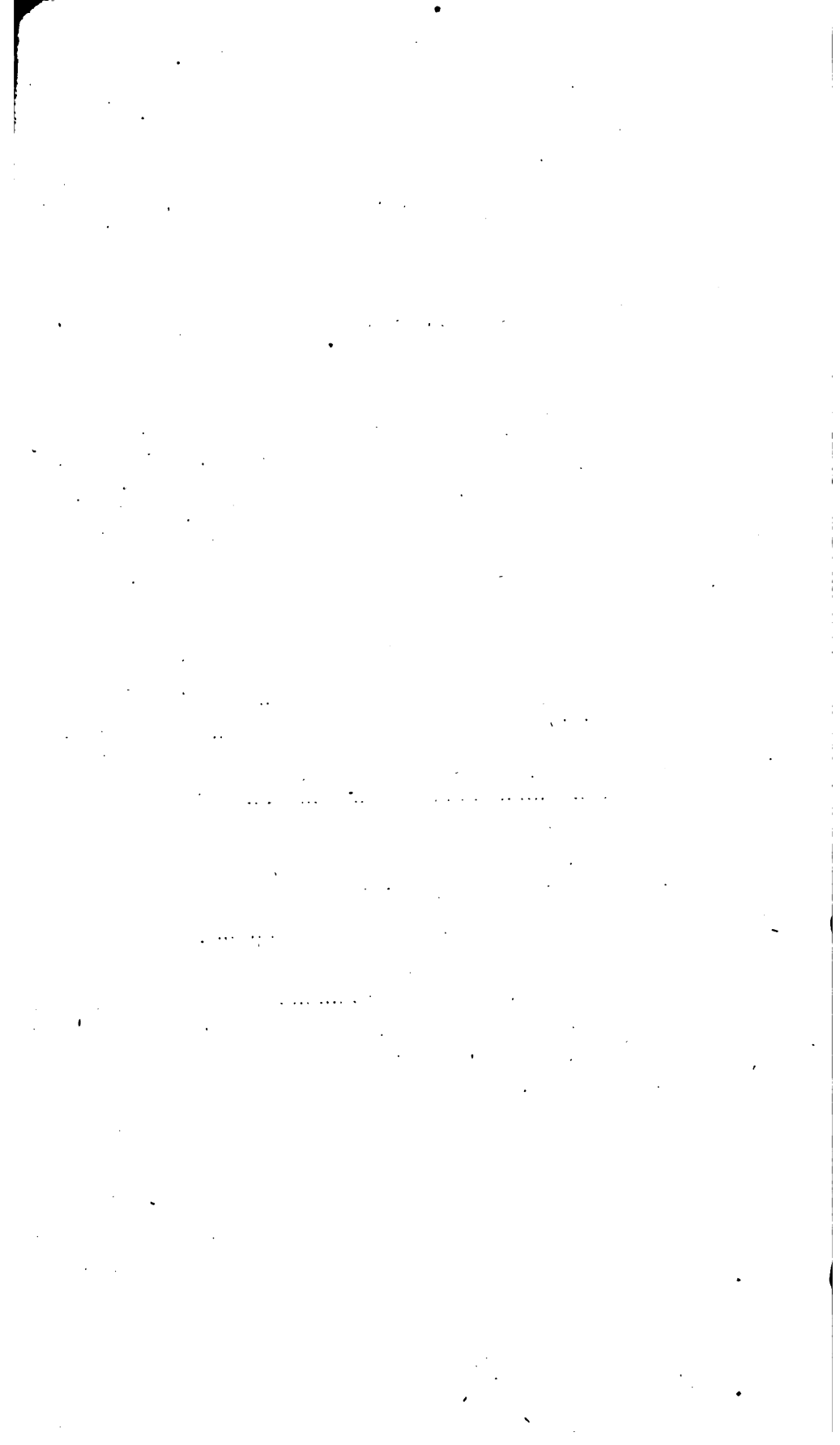
JOHN BEARE.

*Pall-Mall East,
February 1st, 1827.*

APPENDIX.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
No. I.—Minutes of Evidence on the State of Ireland	55
No. II.—Evidence of the Bishop of Derry, &c.	63
No. III.—Examination of Titular Archbishop of Tuam before the House of Commons.	65
No. IV.—Letter of H. M. Graves, Esq. to Marquis Conyngham on the State of Ireland.	68
No. V.—Population of Ireland in 1821.	74
No. VI.—Population of Ireland in 1731.	76
No. VII.—Coals imported into Ireland from 1813 to 1821 inclusive.	76
No. VIII.—Iron imported into Ireland from 1813 to 1821 inclusive.	77
No. IX.—Wrought Iron imported into Ireland from 1813 to 1821 inclusive.	77
No. X.—Import of Coals into Metropolis in 1825 and 1826. 78	
No. XI.—Geological Tract, Extract from	78
No. XII.—Letter on Absenteeism.	80
No. XIII.—Letter from a Lady on Ireland.	82
No. XIV.—Statistical Outline.	84



APPENDIX, No. I.

Extracts from the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Parliamentary Committees appointed to inquire into the State of Ireland.

1823.—1824.—1825.

THE RIGHT HON. MAURICE FITZGERALD, Knight of
Kerry, M. P.

I CANNOT conceive a greater avidity for employment than the people manifest. I have known the peasantry of Kerry offer to work for two-pence a day. There has been an extensive line of Mail Coach Road executed within a few years, and persons flocked to it from very great distances; many walked seven miles before the hour of commencing, and walked back at the end of each day's work. If capital could be introduced into Ireland, it could be profitably invested, where you have a fine climate, a fertile soil, an industrious skilful population, a great command of water, and many other natural advantages.

THOMAS OLDHAM, Esq. of Bucklersbury.

I have no apprehension whatever, of the Linen Manufacture being over done, not the least. A great quantity of Linens that are manufactured in the South, are carried to Scotland to be bleached;—the expence attending that is nearly equal to the profit.

THE RIGHT HON. DENNIS BROWNE, M. P.

There is great anxiety (in the West) to obtain employment, importuning and begging for it; and they resort to every mode of industry that they can find. Nothing can be lower than the wages; a woman spinner will conceive herself well paid by earning three-pence a day.

WILLIAM FURLONG, Esq.

There is a very general want of employment: the people are most anxious for it; and I do believe that if they had employment, there would be no disturbance now. There was a vast deal of disturbance on one particular estate of thirty-five thousand acres; it was almost rebellion; but the liberality of the Trustees enabled the new agent to employ the poor, and he has not one troublesome man on the estate now; they are all quiet, and anxious to be industrious.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR J. NEWPORT, Bart. M. P.

In the neighbourhood of Waterford, where there has been employment, tranquillity has prevailed; there has been no shade of disturbance there.

ROBERT STERN TIGHE, Esq.

I never remarked any feeling among any people more strong than the desire of the Irish labourer to get employment. I think Capital might be invested with very great advantage in Ireland. There is very little or no manufacture in the three Southern provinces. I think money is recovered as easily in Ireland as in this country.

SIR JAMES ANDERSON, Bart.

There is the greatest anxiety to obtain employment. Where I reside, I could get 500 individuals to work at four-pence per day. In the interior, the peasantry are clothed by the domestic manufacture of frieze, produced from wool spun by the females; in the towns generally in old clothes imported from London and Glasgow.

HENRY GRATTAN, Esq. M. P.

Employment would do more towards securing the peace of the country, than all the laws on the Statute-book, or than twenty thousand troops.

JOHN BRAKENRIDGE, Esq.

I visited the South of Ireland, principally. The wages paid to the labourer there is not more than a third of that which is paid in the North of England and in Scotland. If the country were quiet, British capital would, for a certain number of years, be more profitably employed in Ireland than in England.

JAMES CROPPER, Esq.

The people are not only extremely anxious for employment, but extremely grateful for it. Ireland has very peculiar advantages in the water power; and, at present, there is the advantage of cheap labour. The spinners of linen do not get more in some cases than three-half pence, and from that up to three-pence a day.

FRANCIS BLACKBURN, Esq. Judge under the
Insurrection Act.

The great mass of the population is in a state of poverty, destitute of employment, and generally speaking, destitute of what in this country would be considered the comforts and necessities of life. I believe the causes to be the redundant population of the country, the want of manufactures, and the subdivision of property arising from a variety of causes.

ALEXANDER NIMMO, Esq. Civil Engineer.

It is my opinion, that nothing will ameliorate the condition of the people of Ireland, but some measure that will extend employment generally over the whole Kingdom. I conceive that the peasantry in Ireland are in want of almost every Manufacture that tends to the comforts of life. The Cotton Manufacture is gradually raising up an intermediate class between the proprietors and the

actual cultivators of the land in Ireland, which is a class we now want,—an independent middle class. Generally speaking, it strikes me that we should now endeavour to congregate the surplus population of Ireland into towns, where they could be useful to each other, rather than have them so much scattered over the country. The towns in Ireland bear a very small proportion, in respect of population, to the towns in England.

RICHARD GRIFFITH, Esq. Civil Engineer.

We have a great number of large rivers, which abound in fine mill-sites, and I conceive a Manufacture can be carried on with a water power at a much cheaper rate than one worked by the power of steam. No attempts have been made to establish the Silk Manufacture in the southern parts of Ireland. I should think, taking the whole on the average, that the wages (in the South) do not amount to more than four-pence per day for every labourer.

W. H. NEWENHAM, Esq. High Sheriff of the County of Cork.

I do not know of any disposition to disturbance where there has been full employment for the people. I conceive that the extension of employment in the Linen Manufacture would be important; nothing could be more useful than that.

REV. M. DUGGAN, Roman Catholic Priest.

The want of capital is the great and main want that the people now labour under.

JOHN LLOYD, Esq. Judge under the Insurrection Act.

I believe the causes that disposed the population to insurrection, may be referred to all parts where there are no manufactures. In the South of Ireland there is no manufacture, and very little employment for a large population.

JOHN O'DRISCOL, Esq.

The best mode of operating usefully upon the state of the Peasantry, would be by encouraging Manufactures. Where Manufactures are established, there is always a very considerable improvement.

THOMAS FRANKLAND LEWIS, Esq. M. P. Chief Commissioner in the Education Inquiry.

An entire change has taken place in Ireland on the subject of Manufactures. The removal of what were called Protecting Duties, has produced effects infinitely more beneficial than the most sanguine persons anticipated. Liverpool being the great mart of Cotton, it is obvious that Ireland is nearly as open a market for Cotton as any part of England. Ireland has hands that are able to weave the Linen Manufacture; having raised up a population acquainted with the practice of weaving. The manufacturers in England have begun to send over Cotton spun in England, to get it woven in Ireland, and it is immediately brought back into England to be finished. It requires a stronger man to weave Linen than Cotton. The class of persons, therefore, employed in the weaving of Calicoes, are both a poorer and a weaker class than those employed in the Linen Manufacture: a healthy girl of fifteen years old is sufficiently strong to weave.

There is a Cotton Manufacture established at Bandon, in the county of Cork: and I have been told, that it is extremely thriving and prosperous; that its effect has been most beneficial upon the manners and habits of the persons living in the neighbourhood; and it is remarkable, that during all the disturbances which have agitated the county of Cork and its neighbourhood, that district has never been disturbed in such a way as to interfere with the operations of the Manufacturers. It does not appear to me, that a wanton destruction of Manufac-

tories has ever formed a part of the objects of those persons who have been active in committing the outrages in Ireland. The persons employed in Manufactories will soon find out, that if they can employ labourers with advantage, they can employ them with security. An individual whom I saw in the county of Derry, stated to me, that the advantage to his employer in England was equal to from sixteen to twenty per cent.—that is, that the work done was from sixteen to twenty per cent. lower in Ireland than he could get it executed for in the neighbourhood of Manchester. Liverpool, Bristol, and Glasgow, are vast emporia of commerce; and large steam vessels, now crossing the channel rapidly and constantly, bring cargoes, and land them at the quay at Dublin, without the inspection of Custom-house officers—it being a coasting trade. The Silk Manufactory of Ireland is principally confined to Dublin, which I do not think is the most favourable site for Manufactures. Except the Manufacture of Friezes, they cannot carry on the Woollen Manufacture in cottages; it must be carried on in Manufactories.

JOHN LESLIE FOSTER, Esq. M. P.

It seems to be generally understood and admitted now by every one, that the system which called itself one of protection was one of prohibition, and that the cessation of that system has presented an opportunity for the exertion of Irish industry in directions and to an extent that never was before dreamt of. Whatever operations can be procured best by the human hand, I think will be performed in Ireland; for the hand which is satisfied with cheaper subsistence, will necessarily undersell the hand not so circumstanced. Potters' clay has been discovered in two places near Dungannon, and also in the country between Clonmel and Cahir. It is a curious fact, that

there is not, at present, a plate of white ware made in Ireland. We had heavy protecting duties, as they were called, to encourage the Manufacture ; but it would not do. Nevertheless, I am very sanguine in my expectations, that under a more rational system, the potteries of Ireland will, in time, be one of the most important of our Manufactures.

JAMES REDMOND BARRY, Esq.

The people in that district (part of the county of Kerry) are intensely anxious for employment, and have been uniformly tranquil. I am firmly convinced that there is at this moment as much security for the investment of capital in that part of the country as in the City of London.

COLONEL W. S. CURREY, Agent to the Duke of Devonshire.

The unfortunate situation of Ireland is, that the inhabitants have little to look to but the cultivation of the soil ; if Manufactures of any kind could be introduced, this population might then be usefully employed.

JOHN STAUNTON ROCHFORD, Esq.

In the district I live in, there are very great opportunities for the valuable investment of English capital ; there is a navigable river, the Barrow, with numerous falls into it, very favourable for mill-sites. There are twenty miles of it, no part of which is more than from three to ten miles distant from some of the collieries, and an industrious and redundant population ready to be employed.

THE RIGHT REV. DR. DOYLE, Roman Catholic Bishop of Kildare.

There is no Manufactory, of what kind soever in Carlow, a town containing three or four thousand inhabitants. We have been endeavouring to encourage the spinning

of coarse linen yarn, but we have not succeeded to any considerable extent.

MAJOR-GENERAL RICHARD BOURKE.

As long as there are no Manufactories, emigration appears to me almost the only way of providing for the surplus population. In almost all those parts of the country where employment has been afforded to the people, they have been remarkably tranquil.

REV. H. COOKE, A.M. Moderator of the Synod of Ulster.

I think the people of the North of Ireland very capable of learning any handicraft. The skill necessary to the success of manufactures would be the natural consequence of capital coming into the country.

JOHN RICHARD ELMORE, Esq.

Capital appears to me the great want, which, if supplied, would produce every good that Ireland is capable of receiving. I employ between five and six hundred people (at Clonakilty) directly and indirectly. I am perfectly satisfied with the returns on my capital. The introduction of linen, conjointly with agriculture, is not the most advisable mode. I could undersell those poor manufacturers twenty-five per cent., and leave myself a profit. I could extend my establishment with great advantage to Cottons and coarse Woollens.

JOHN BROWNE, Esq.

I am concerned in Limerick in a Distillery; it is one of the largest in Ireland. We have four stills, and make above 450,000 gallons a year. We have never met with any obstructions or difficulties in the conduct of our establishment from the people of the country. We have been sixteen years there. I am a native of Scotland.

APPENDIX, No. II.

From the Evidence of the Bishop of Derry
before Committee of the House of Lords, 25th
March, 1825.

"We have Charitable Loan Societies, and most useful they are. The individual wanting a Loan to purchase a Loom, &c. &c. must give security of two persons, *not Publicans*, that the money will be repaid at a certain rate, at 6d. in the pound per week. This has gone on now for 14 years, and most beneficially. I think we have lent 20,000*l.*, and have not lost altogether more than 20*l.*; but we are very strict and careful, requiring marked punctuality as to repayment, &c. No person can possibly get a Loan, unless he preserves a character for honesty, sobriety, and punctuality, *never allowing Publicans to have any influence whatever.*"

Question by the Chairman.—"Does the Institution contribute to improve the moral habits of the country around you?"—"Doubtless! to a very great degree. It has been a favourite Institution with me for many years, and I have endeavoured to spread its effects in various places. We are repaid with uncommon punctuality. There is a degree of honest pride excited to be punctual; and where there is any want of that, the punishment follows at once, by immediately suing the securities."

From the Fourth Report of the Select Committee
of the House of Commons (Year 1825.)

EVIDENCE OF JOHN GODLEY, Esq.

"Have you been in the habit of lending money?"

"I have, both individually, and latterly by means of

a Loan from the London Relief Committee; they have granted certain sums to different Counties: about 170*l.* was allocated to a part of a barony in Leitrim, which has been lent to weavers now for these two years past, and each year that 170*l.* has amounted in loans to about 400*l.*, and we have not lost one farthing from not being repaid. I was in the habit, previously, of pursuing the same system out of my own funds for many years, and I do so still; and my experience enables me to state the punctuality as to repayment: we have not suffered any loss; one hundred persons have been debtors to my own fund at one time, generally in small sums, for wheels, &c., to be paid by weekly instalments."

From the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, on the Employment of the Poor of Ireland. 16th July, 1823.

"The good effects of Charitable Loan Funds in Ireland are strongly shown in the evidence which has come before us, and these Loans might be made applicable to the Agriculture and Fisheries, as well as Manufactures of that country, and would become instrumental, not only in providing instruments of labour, but in diffusing better morals, and in promoting frugality, and punctuality in the discharge of engagements. Loan Funds would also have the effect of creating or of augmenting the connexion between the different classes of Society, so essential to the best interests of all."

The following Extract is the concluding Paragraph in the Report of the said Committee of the House of Commons, viz:—

"Your Committee cannot conclude without again expressing their opinion, that the employment of the people

of Ireland, and the improvement of their condition, is essentially necessary to the peace and tranquillity of that Island, as well as to the general interests of the United Kingdom."

APPENDIX, No. III.

Minutes of the Examination of the Most Reverend
Oliver Kelly, D.D. Titular Archbishop of Tuam,
before the Committee of the House of Com-
mons, March 23, 1825.

Have you been able to discover any increase in the population of the district with which you are acquainted?

For the last twenty-four years that I have been in Ireland, I have observed a very considerable increase in the population of the part of the country where I have been residing.

Have you been able to discover any distinction in the ratio of increase in those districts where the situation of the people is improved, as compared with the increase of the population where the people are in a great state of misery?

I think I have. About the year 1806 I was appointed to a parish in the County of Mayo, along the sea coast, between the towns of Westport and Newport, and I found that the people who inhabited that district were extremely comfortable; they were more industrious than the generality of the people in other parts of the country; they were weavers; they had taken spots of ground along the

sea-coast, and they employed themselves occasionally at the linen business, at other times in tilling their little farms, and, where an opportunity offered, in fishing; by those means they became much more comfortable than the peasantry in other parts of the country, *and the increase of the population was not so rapid.*

Have you been able to compare the number of marriages which took place in a district like that which you have described, with the number of marriages that took place in the more agricultural and less prosperous districts?

Yes, I think I have; I did observe, that in those prosperous districts the marriages were not so frequent as I found them in more impoverished districts.

In those more prosperous districts you found that there was an indisposition, on the part of the people, to contract improvident marriages?

I found that there was an indisposition, on their part, to contract improvident marriages: I have perfectly on my recollection that the circumstance struck me at the time, and that I did inquire amongst the people how it happened; and the reply I received was, that they had no idea of entering into the matrimonial state, until they could acquire a competency for their own support and the support of a family. In other parts of the country, where I observed very considerable poverty, I found a greater indifference about their future comforts than among persons in a more prosperous situation in life.

Then do you believe that every measure which has a tendency to augment the comfort of the peasant, and raise his condition in society, has also a tendency to check improvident marriages?

Decidedly; from the experience that I have had, and from the observations that I have made.

Do the peasantry feel any considerable difficulty in providing themselves with habitations of a decent and respectable kind in your part of the country?

Very great difficulty.

Is there much timber available for those purposes within the reach of the peasantry?

There is a great want of native timber; there is very little of it grown in the parts of the country I am acquainted with; and the foreign timber is quite beyond the reach of the poor, and therefore they cannot make their habitations comfortable or convenient; and I have heard them frequently make the remark, that if they could get timber at a cheap rate, they would endeavour to make comfortable habitations for themselves.

Do you conceive that any facility given to the peasantry to improve the state of the houses in the country, would also have a tendency to check the increase of the population to which you have adverted, on the principles laid down in the early part of your evidence?

I am decidedly of opinion, that any thing that would tend to improve the condition of the peasantry, would be a check on improvident marriages.

APPENDIX, No. IV.

To the most Noble the MARQUIS CONYNNGHAM, K. P. &c. &c. &c.

“The safe and general antidote against distress and sorrow, is ‘Employment.’ Whoever shall keep his thoughts busy, will find himself unaffected with irretrievable losses.”—JOHNSON.

MY LORD MARQUIS,—In the last Letter which I did myself the honour of addressing to your Lordship, I endeavoured to show what benefit would accrue, not only to Ireland but to the State generally, by a *practical* development of the amazing natural resources of my country. I requested your Lordship’s attention to my Letter; and under the idea that I am not irrelevant in again addressing your Lordship, I beg to resume my interesting subject, and respectfully request the favour of your Lordship’s attention thereto.

It appears to me that the first grand object which should direct the views of the practical economist, would be a strict attention to the present destitute state of the *Peasantry* of Ireland. The Peasantry, and not the Aristocracy of Ireland, is that which should demand his first care—his most serious attention. The *People* are the great strength of a nation. According as they are happy or prosperous—contented or disaffected—rich or poor; so will the state vary in its external, contingent, and actual condition and appearances. They are the political barometer (if I may so express myself) which indicates the changes of “fair or foul” in the horizon of the country, and to *this* body of the nation, the eye of the

keen Statesman will always be directed, as the best and surest test whereby to wield, direct, manage, consolidate the many and multifarious branches of Government. I have lately been perusing a work on "Political Economy" (a subject very much talked of by the many, and very little understood even by the few); and though perhaps I may not subscribe to all the opinions of Mr. SAY, yet there is one remark of his which has struck me forcibly. It is the following:—"How can the State gain, except through the medium of the people?" The State CANNOT gain, except through the medium of the people; and this is a political axiom which never can be controverted. There is a practical illustration of this in the present condition of Ireland. Her people are impoverished and discontented, and, as a *necessary consequence*, the entire nation wears the aspect of discontent and destitution. In making this remark, I am not to allude to any particular time or specific year: I take the History of Ireland for the last fifty years. Let me now take the History of England for the last fifty years, and I shall find a contrast as convincing as it is brilliant, which but too truly elucidates the truth of my remark. Within the period of half a century, England has risen to "the most palmy state" of grandeur and power. Her people are contented and prosperous, and so is the nation.

Perhaps, my Lord, I could scarcely illustrate the force of the above remarks better than by requesting your Lordship to glance at the present statistic appearance of Wales. The march of "improvement" is there powerfully portrayed: all its inhabitants are at work, and all its inhabitants are happy. Commerce has sent its life-giving spirit in its various ramifications throughout nearly all its counties and districts; and all the inhabitants are contented—all are busy—all are comparatively rich.

The Principality has evinced none of that general dreadful distress which has lately paralyzed the powerful arm of England's commerce. Why? Its mines—its collieries—its iron works—its commodious harbours—its rich soil—its bridges,—all these form a chain in a commercial point of view, and concentrate their aid to enrich and aggrandize her. And here I am not to omit to remark, that sixty years ago Wales was *not* that rich country which she is at present. Commerce was not awakened in her. Its spirit slept. But the moment that the *natural* resources of the country were brought into action—the instant that *Business* and *Employment* sent their rich stream of wealth to meander through her plains and cities, she awoke from her dormant state, into life, activity, and power; and she is now not only one of the richest portions of the British Isles, but she is the “Garden of England.” Her wild woods—her now verdant forests and plantations, which were barren wastes sixty years ago—her blue mountains—her picturesque plains, catch the eye of the delighted Tourist; while the Merchant views her as a powerful proof of what commerce aided by industry can perform.

Turn we now to Ireland (alas! the picture now shows darkly). The first question which here presents itself to the mind of the acute inquirer, is—Does Ireland possess natural resources in the same proportion as Wales? My Lord, I unhesitatingly assert, that Ireland is infinitely more rich than Wales, both in all natural capabilities, and in all her real and positive sources of wealth. I do not assert this merely on my own dictum. I assert it from *proofs*—from evidence the most convincing and satisfactory—from calculations, and the weight of palpable testimony, which admit not of a shadow of doubt. Is it not then, strange—is it not unaccountably strange, that

an Island possessing such amazing natural resources—such abundant means for amply remunerating both the capitalist and the labourer, should hitherto be suffered to be comparatively neglected and unheeded? Its canals—its harbours—its waste lands—its mines, quarries, collieries—its unreclaimed bogs—its surface and substrata,—all these afford the most ample and efficacious means for the Economist and the Statesman to display their talents upon. Is it not then idle—is it not absurd and mischievous—to advocate the utility of Emigration, when such an amazing field is open for giving employment to the destitute peasantry of the Sister Kingdom? And here I beg leave (not inappropriately) to quote the following strong and sensible remarks of the celebrated French Political Economist:—

“ This emigration of industry, capital, and local attachment, is no less a dead and total loss to the country thus abandoned, than it is a clear gain to the country affording an asylum. It was observed by Christina, Queen of Sweden, upon the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, that Louis XIV. had used his right hand to cut off his left.

“ Nor can the calamity be prevented by any measure of legal coercion. A fellow-citizen cannot be forcibly retained, unless he be absolutely incarcerated; still less can he be prevented from exporting his moveable property, if he be so inclined; for putting out of the question the channel of contraband, which can never be closed altogether, he may convert his effects into goods, whose export is tolerated, or even encouraged, and consign, or cause them to be consigned to some correspondent abroad. This export is a real outgoing in value.”

My Lord, these remarks are worth your Lordship's

serious consideration. They are plain, convincing, sensible. He says that emigration is "*a dead and total loss to the country thus abandoned,*" and, to make this argument more strong, adds, that it is a "*a clear gain*" to the country affording an asylum.—I here am not to allow my opponent to seize the latter part of this argument, and say, that as it is a clear gain to the colony, why not advocate the measure? I instantly reply, why should we benefit any country *at the expense of our own*? If it is "*a dead loss*" to *us*, and "*a clear gain*" to *them*, why should we persist in a system which puts us on the debit side of this heavy account? Thousands, nay, hundreds of thousands of pounds would be spent in following up the system with any vigour.—Alas! if half that sum were *properly* expended on Ireland, she would then be a rich, flourishing, and happy country, instead of a distressed, impoverished, and complaining one.

"A first step"—a bold, vigorous, and prompt first step—is all that is required to put Ireland in the foreground of improvement. A few practical, energetic, talented characters, are wanted to point out the means, and develop sources of employment for the wretched peasantry. The *real* treasures of a country are all in Ireland. They are indigenous to her soil, and are most bountifully showered down upon that neglected isle. There are riches scattered all around, and under the feet of the unemployed and starving peasantry; there are boundless stores of untried and exhaustless wealth; but alas! they have no "*masters*" to direct them how to work—they have no practical men to train them in the way to become useful artisans and mechanics, and valuable members of the state.

"When Frederick William came into the Regency, (says the royal historian of the house of Brandenburg),

there was in the country no manufacture of hats, of stockings, of serge, or woollen stuff of any kind. All these commodities were derived from French Industry."

My Lord, I wish your Lordship could follow this noble example, and individually applying the remark, endeavour to be one of those patriotic characters who would introduce manufacture, commerce, and capital, into that country, which pleads and turns to your Lordship as a nobleman whose rank, influence, and talent, *empower* him to be of service to her. Rank, influence, and talent, never can be more nobly exerted, than in the cause of a really distressed and suffering country. Exert them, my Lord. Your Lordship will have the blessings of thousands; and the prayer of the orphan, and the fervent benedictions of the widow "shall be the high reward."

I have the honour to sign myself,

My Lord Marquis,

Your Lordship's very obedient and very humble Servant,

HENRY M. GRAVES.

2, Parliament Street, Whitehall.

APPENDIX, No. V.

POPULATION OF IRELAND IN 1891.

AGES OF PERSONS.

Provinces.	5 and under.	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50
1. LEINSTER.	264491	228084	208581	200811	326998	206383	142846
2. MUNSTER.	301809	272202	235256	238752	355678	281501	142450
3. ULSTER.	295366	263127	248956	250084	343009	215374	159166
4. CONNAUGHT.	178999	157344	135113	138646	189793	127498	79855
	1040665	920757	827906	828293	1195478	780756	524347

POPULATION OF IRELAND IN 1821.

AGES OF PERSONS.

50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100 and upwards.	Unascertained.	Total.	Provinces.
106855	48788	16598	3627	534	62	2834	1757492	1. LEINSTER.
112755	45535	15215	2742	452	89	1176	1935612	2. MUNSTER.
123027	65835	24659	5733	699	94	3395	1998494	3. ULSTER.
65118	25524	8528	1677	308	104	1192	1110229	4. CONNAUGHT.
408555	185482	65000	13779	1963	349	8597	6801827	

(Signed)

W. SHAW MASON,

Appointed by the Chief Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant for digesting and arranging the Population Returns of Ireland.

APPENDIX, No. VI.

Population of Ireland, as returned to Parliament in 1731.

	P.		
Ulster - -	360630	} 700451	} Both, 2010219
Leinster - -	203087		
Munster - -	115130		
Connaught - -	21604		
	R. C.		
Ulster - -	158028	} R. C. 1309768	}
Leinster - -	447916		
Munster - -	482044		
Connaught - -	221780		

APPENDIX, No. VII.

Coals imported into Ireland.

	Tons.
In the year ended 5th January 1813	696,294
_____ 1814	517,047
_____ 1815	630,658
_____ 1816	698,952
_____ 1817	662,710
_____ 1818	712,988½
_____ 1819	629,042½
_____ 1820	688,844½
_____ 1821	653,409

APPENDIX, No. VIII.

Iron imported into Ireland.

	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
In the year ended 5th January 1813	414,351	0	0
_____ 1814	464,619	0	0
_____ 1815	297,762	0	0
_____ 1816	256,231	0	0
_____ 1817	180,183	0	0
_____ 1818	249,149	0	0
_____ 1819	280,350	1	21
_____ 1820	292,506	0	13
_____ 1821	217,323	0	20

APPENDIX, No. IX.

Hardware, wrought Iron, and Cutlery, value of, imported into Ireland.

	£	s.	d.
In the year ended 5th January 1813	414,599	19	10
_____ 1814	414,907	9	11
_____ 1815	344,570	15	8
_____ 1816	278,830	1	9
_____ 1817	201,296	13	6
_____ 1818	199,833	1	1
_____ 1819	249,090	10	5
_____ 1820	247,820	19	8
_____ 1821	245,490	8	10

APPENDIX, No. X.

Coals imported and sold in the pool, London, in the year ending 10th October, 1826, were 1,581,879 chaldrons; of cinders, 853½ chaldrons; and of culm, 13,327 chaldrons. And this amount is nearly in the proportion of three to two of the quantity imported in the year ending October 1825.

APPENDIX, No. XI.

In a Geological Tract, published at Belfast, about a year ago, many interesting particulars appeared, and from which the under remarks, applying to a portion of the Coal Districts within these Properties (County Antrim,) seem entitled to attention.

“ The district of Keltymorris is almost entirely bedded on coal, which has been opened in many places, but for want of capital is only worked at one spot, and that but for a short time, and in an extremely imperfect manner. The effective opening of these mines would give, at an expense comparatively trifling, an almost incredible impulse to trade and manufactures in the North; an impulse so great as materially to enhance the value of property all over Ulster. That this representation is not too sanguine will appear from the following facts:—

" A rail-road from the present pit to the River Bann, at Portna, (a distance of four to five miles, *all down hill*;) will be sufficient to open a passage up the Bann, (by Lough Neagh, and by the Lagan and Newry navigations,) to ten or twelve thriving towns in the interior—as Newry, Lurgan, &c.—and so to the Irish Channel, by Carlingford Bay in the county of Down. On the other hand, a free passage to the Atlantic would secure a communication with the whole Northern coast of Ireland. The town of Belfast stands prominent as a market for fuel. Londonderry also, and the towns round the coast to the westward, could be supplied with fuel on terms which would inevitably command a decided preference over importation.

" To effect this, very little expense is necessary, looking to the importance of the object. Vessels of 70 tons come up the Bann to Coleraine, four miles from the sea; and by the operation of a steam drudge upon a bar at the river's mouth, (such as is used on the Clyde,) vessels of 100 or 150 tons could reach Coleraine. From thence to Portna the river is navigable for 100 tons light-erage, with the exception of three points; namely, the Leap of Coleraine, and two similar rocks or falls above. These operate to keep the river deep in its upper course. Vessels of 40 tons, if taken round these impediments by a lockage of some few perches at each point, would come close up to the termination of the proposed railway at Portna,—a distance fully twenty-five miles from the sea.

" Were this undertaking completed, the North of Ireland would, in a short time, present a similar appearance to the country in the coal districts of Scotland, thickly studded with large manufactories, to the establishment of which in the interior, (as in the case of glass-works,

&c.) the high price of fuel forms an objection nearly amounting to prohibition. The low rate of provisions rent, &c. has induced English and Scotch companies to transfer their manufacturing establishments to Ireland; and this must become very general, when the grand obstacle is removed by the immediate neighbourhood of an inexhaustible supply of fuel."

APPENDIX, No. XII.

To the Editor of the Morning Post.

SIR,

I have been exceedingly delighted with the remarks of a Correspondent, in your very excellent Paper of yesterday on the subject of the Improvement of Ireland. I have properties in that country; and, although unable from circumstances to make it my constant residence, shall be most anxious, by every means in my power, to contribute to its welfare. Absenteeism has virtually little or nothing to do with the condition of Ireland; for, so far as such non-residence applies to those who are not actively engaged in the pursuits of commerce, it has no influence on the energies of the State. In Ireland, we have a great abundance of manual labour, but no intelligence to direct it. Labour is, in fact, without any demand for it; there being no certain means of employment, nor permanent sources of occupation. Such is commonly the case in an infant State, until civilization has been followed by the introduction of the arts, manufactures, and commerce—the inhabitants of a country usually appearing too nume-

rous for their leaders. This fact admits of no query, when viewed in a political sense; but when considered in a civil one, it is nevertheless equally true. In the progress of advancement, large undertakings must be set on foot through the intelligence of a few, in order to meet the wants and supply useful labour to the many; and, in proportion as money shall be vested in Ireland, for the establishment and maintenance of such large concerns as collieries, iron-works, or other sources of constant labour, the whole country will become progressively enriched.

It occurs to me, that the views taken by your Correspondent are practicable and just. He does not wander into the mazes of those theories which have been of late so hacknied and fashionable. He goes at once to the subject; he tells us that permanent establishments to give employment to the population, are what are wanting. We all admit this, and yet no mind appears sufficiently bold or intelligent to be able to point out in what way sources of permanent occupations for the Irish poor should be planted and fostered. Now, Mr. Editor, permit me to inquire, through your valuable Journal, what is the propriety or expediency of calling a Public Meeting in London, to consider the most effectual means of giving useful labour and employment in different districts of Ireland at the same time; either by the prosecution of some necessary public works, or in bringing to account the valuable collieries and other mines, which, although well known, remain unwrought throughout the kingdom?

A Public Meeting on this subject would elicit valuable information; and as practical men, as well as others, would then attend, I entertain the fullest conviction some effectual means would be devised, and some clearly prac-

that the wretchedness and abject destitution of her peasantry may speedily be relieved.

I am, sir,

Your constant reader and obedient servant,

CRCILIA.

London, May 30, 1826.

APPENDIX XIV.

STATISTICAL OUTLINE.

There is not a county in Ireland which does not contain some valuable mineral or fossil.

The following account, drawn from the statistical surveys of seventeen counties, the writings of Dr. Smith, the specimens in the Museum of the Dublin Society, the communication of Mr. Donald Stewart, Itinerant Mineralogist of that society, and from the information of others, will serve, notwithstanding its deficiency, to give a sufficient view of the minerals and fossils of Ireland.

ARMAGH contains lead, ochres of different colours, and various beautiful marbles.

ANTRIM contains coal and gypsum in abundance, beautiful crystals, pebbles, and different sorts of ochres.

CARLOW contains granite, talc, marbles, crystals, and ochres.

CAVAN contains fine lead ore, iron, coal, ochres, clays, fullers-earth, sulphur, copper, silver and jasper.

CLARE contains lead, copper, iron, coal, and beautiful spars like those of Derbyshire.

CORK contains lead, iron, copper, coal, fine slate, extremely beautiful marbles of a great variety of colours, petrifications, brown and yellow ochres, excellent potter's clay, and amethysts of great beauty.

DONEGAL contains rich lead ore, immense quantities of different sorts of clays, coal, silicious sand, manganese, iron, beautiful granite, chalcedony, marble resembling that which is called statuary marble, and granites.

DOWN contains iron, fullers-earth, soapstone, rich lead, marbles of different sorts, crystals, granite, copper and and very fine stone.

DUBLIN contains copper, lead, ochres of different colours, potter's clay, beautiful pebbles, crystals and porphyry.

FERMANAGH contains rich iron ore, and coal.

GALWAY contains rich lead, crystals, pearls, and marbles of superior beauty.

KERRY contains abundance of rich copper, lead, beautiful marbles of various combinations of colours, cobalt, crystals, pearls, and amethysts.

KILDARE contains marbles of different colours, *which bear a higher polish than those brought from Italy.*

KILKENNY contains iron, coal, ochres, pipe and potter's clay, marbles (some of them singular and beautiful) granite and jasper.

KING'S COUNTY contains a silver mine near Edenderry ; but not worked these 40 years.

LEITRIM contains inexhaustible stores of iron and coal, copper, blue, green, yellow, pale red, and crimson coloured clays, fullers-earth and garnets.

LIMERICK contains iron, copper, lead, coal, and fine slate.

LONDONDERRY contains iron, copper, lead, abun-

dance of crystals, beautiful pebbles and petrifications found near Lough Neagh, granite and handsome marbles.

LONGFORD contains great variety of marbles, ochres, lead, fine slate, extremely rich iron ore, and jasper.

LOUTH contains ochres and fullers-earth.

MAYO contains abundance of iron ore, ochres, granite, coal, slate of a superior quality, beautiful black marbles without speck, and manganese.

MEATH contains ochres, and rich and abundant copper ore.

MONAGHAN contains iron, lead, manganese, coal, marble, fullers-earth and antimony.

QUEEN'S COUNTY contains iron, coal, copper, marble, ochres, fullers-earth, and potters' clay.

ROSCOMMON contains ochres, coal, iron, and marble, exhibiting the petrified skeletons of different animals, and bearing a very high polish.

SLIGO contains iron, copper, lead, coal, fine clays, talc, silver, and in abundance near the coast, a stone which bears a high polish, and is called serpent stone, from figures which it exhibits resembling the skeletons of these animals.

TIPPERARY contains rich and abundant copper and lead mines, coal, silver, plenty of fine slate, clays, and the most beautiful marbles.

TYRONE contains iron, and plenty of good potters' clay.

WATERFORD contains copper in abundance, iron and ochres, handsome pebbles, and near the harbour a most beautiful green and black marble.

WEXFORD contains lead, copper, iron, marble, ochres, and a blue earth.

WICKLOW contains crystals, sulphur, manganese, copper in abundance, granite, lead, tin, and several other metallic substances, including gold.

WESTMEATH contains copper, lead, coal, and handsome yellow and dove-coloured marbles.

By this account, incomplete as it is, Ireland appears to contain thirty different sorts of minerals and fossils.

NEWENHAM's *Statistics*.



THE END.

LONDON :
PRINTED BY S. AND R. BENTLEY, DORSET STREET.

